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The Michigan State Courts Annual Report 1987

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STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
JUDGE V. ROBERT PAYANT

The Honorable Chief Justice and
Associate Justices of the Supreme
Court of Michigan

The Honorable Governor of Michigan

Michigan Senate

Michigan House of Representatives

I am pleased to transmit to you and our citizens this Report concerning the Michigan Court System for calendar year 1987.

This Report contains the basic information regarding the activities of the courts and other units within the judiciary, as well as a listing of committees and commissions who worked during the year toward the improvement of the Michigan Judicial System.

In addition to basic statewide statistical information, the Report contains some analysis of that data presented in chart and graphic format. The statistical supplement provides detailed information on each of the 241 trial courts.

This Report would not be possible without the outstanding cooperation of Michigan judges, court personnel and the staff of the State Court Administrative Office and the other agencies serving the judicial branch.

Yours very truly,

V. Robert Payant
State Court Administrator

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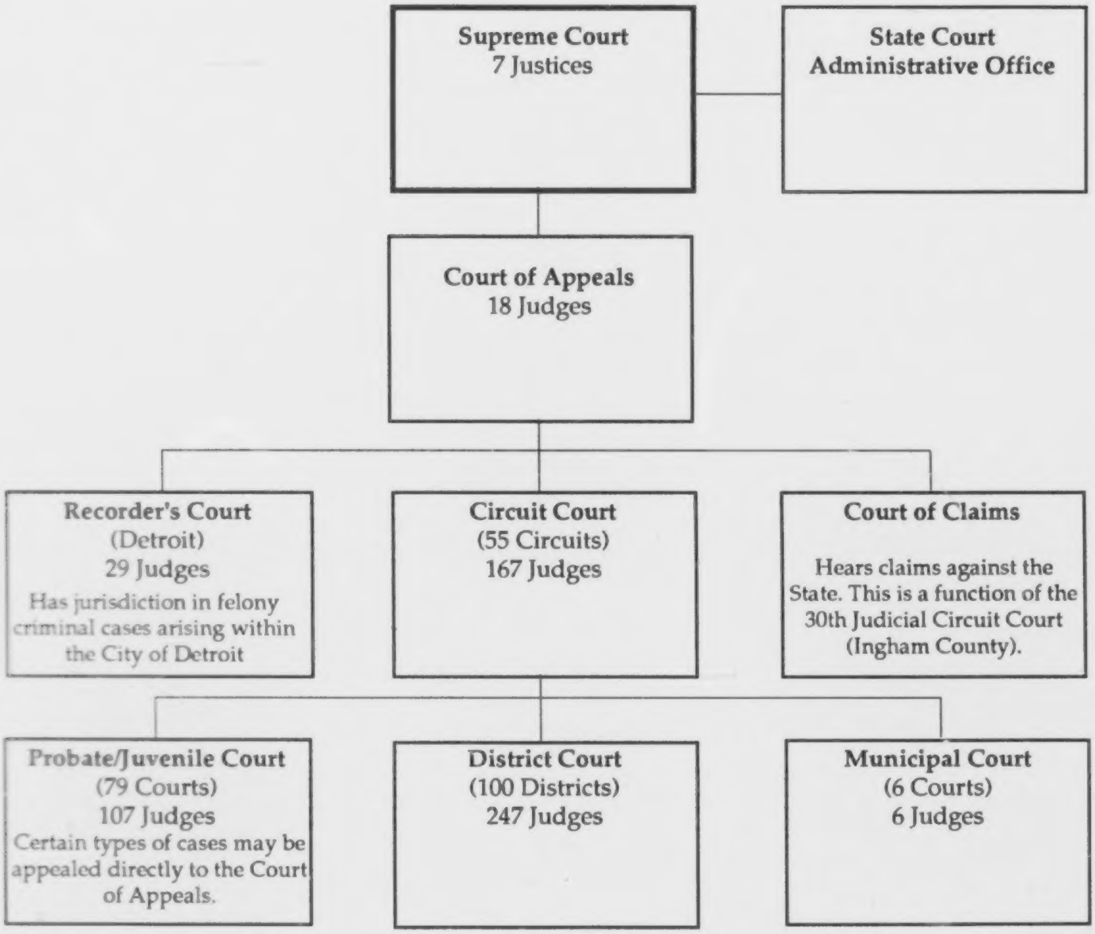
Michigan State Court System


Supreme Court
7 Justices
State Court
Administrative Office
Court of Appeals
18 Judges
Recorder's Court
(Detroit)
29 Judges
Has jurisdiction in felony criminal cases arising within the City of Detroit
Circuit Court
(55 Circuits)
167 Judges
Court of Claims
Hears claims against the State. This is a function of the 30th Judicial Circuit Court (Ingham County).
Probate/Juvenile Court
(79 Courts)
107 Judges
Certain types of cases may be appealed directly to the Court of Appeals.
District Court
(100 Districts)
247 Judges
Municipal Court
(6 Courts)
6 Judges

State of the Judiciary Message

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY MESSAGE

Chief Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley
April 28, 1988

Governor Blanchard, Lieutenant Governor Griffiths, Speaker Owen, Majority Leader Engler, State Officers, Members of the House and Senate, Distinguished Alumni of the Michigan Supreme Court and of this Joint Legislative Convention. Today my brothers and sisters of the bench join me in this report to you and to the people of Michigan.

"To understand what is happening today or what will be happening in the future, I look back."

I look back nearly two decades, to May 1, 1969, when the tradition of these joint sessions began. This State of the Judiciary Program is a celebration of that occasion and those who made it possible: Speaker William A. Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Emil Lockwood and Chief Justice Thomas E. Brennan.

It is a celebration also of those who followed and forged strong working ties between Michigan's legislative and judicial branches of government: Speaker Bobby Crim and our present Speaker Gary M. Owen; Senate Majority Leaders Robert VanderLaan, Milton Zaagman, William Fitzgerald and our present Majority Leader, Senator John Engler and, Chief Justices Thomas Matthew Kavanagh, Thomas Giles Kavanagh, Mary Stallings Coleman, John W. Fitzgerald and G. Mennen Williams.

Since that first judicial address by Chief Justice Brennan on Law Day, 1969, we have come a long way together, through many legislative sessions and terms of court. For as you well know, the law we live by, like history, is cumulative. It does not begin nor does it end with one session of the Legislature or with one term of court. Rather the laws of tomorrow are borne of the successes and failures of the laws of yesterday and today.

In each of the State of the Judiciary messages since 1969, my predecessors have spoken of the importance of balance among the three branches of state government. They have asked you to give consideration to our concerns; to share our pride in programs often made possible only with your help; and they have urged you to join us in seeking solutions to the complex societal problems left on our courthouse steps.

Chief Justice Brennan persuaded you that the Wayne County courts required special "Crash" programs to deal with their criminal dockets.

Chief Justice Thomas Matthew Kavanagh successfully urged you to put in place a State Court Administrative Office and to begin to build a Judicial Data Center.

Chief Justice Thomas Giles Kavanagh worked with you to implement a committee to study court congestion, court facilities and put in place the Michigan Judicial Institute.

Under the leadership of Chief Justice Mary Stallings Coleman you enacted legislation to revamp the Detroit/Wayne County Court structure and to put in place the State Judicial Council.

Chief Justice John W. Fitzgerald assisted you in the implementation of the reorganization of the Wayne County Court system.

And working with my former colleague, Chief Justice G. Mennen Williams, you strengthened court administration and assisted us in examining and instituting significant reforms to provide equitable, timely and efficient justice.

True, there was much that the Chiefs urged that was left unfinished. But I am here today to tell you that my colleagues and I still view May 1, 1969 as an important date in our state's legislative and judicial history, because it marks our first full recognition of the interdependence as well as independence of each branch of government.

I am here also to acknowledge our honorees who faithfully and steadfastly over the past 19 years built upon the foundation laid on Law Day, 1969.

And, I am here to commit to you that my colleagues and I will do whatever we must to maintain the vitality of this working relationship, while preserving the independence and integrity of our "One Court of Justice".

The constitutional responsibility of the Judiciary is to provide a forum in which disputes can be resolved by unbiased application of legal standards to the facts. An independent Judiciary, constitutionally bound to decide cases without fear or favor, whether the case is between branches of government, between citizen and state or between citizen and citizen assures that this responsibility will be carried out.

To the extent that courts are accessible to the people, and, they resolve disputes quickly, economically and fairly--we are successful, but today, there are massive strains on our Judiciary's ability to function effectively.

Ask any of Michigan's 565 judges (more than 100 of whom are in the gallery) and they will tell you that while we have accomplished much together--much more remains to be done! Certainly the agenda which you have already outlined for yourselves--criminal law reform, tort reform, juvenile justice reform to name a few--will greatly impact the quality of justice that Michigan's citizens can expect in the future.

Thus, as you continue to address the critical problems whose solutions define the quality of life in Michigan, I ask you to work with the Judicial and Executive branches in tackling one more significant reform. I ask you to review with us the very structure of the Judiciary itself. Fifteen years ago a joint commission to study Article VI of the 1963 Michigan Constitution looked at the organization of the Judiciary and made significant recommendations. Based on those recommendations, you established the present Court of Claims, abolished the Commons Pleas Court, established the 36th District Court for the City of Detroit, and strengthened the powers and duties of the Judicial Tenure Commission.

I urge you to reexamine Article VI of our Constitution and the statutes which implement it in light of today's problems. You have spent considerable time in recent months enacting bills to combat the growing crime problems related to trafficking of illegal drugs. You have made adjustments in the powers and responsibilities of law enforcement and correctional agencies. I ask you to also focus on the impact which these problems have on the Judiciary.

Further, in reviewing Article VI to draw the blueprint for a more effective Judiciary, I urge you to explore what the basic structure of the Michigan Court system should be. Should there be a single trial bench with special divisions? Regional courts? Family courts? How many judges should there be? Which cases should they hear? Where should they be located? And ultimately, who should fund them?

Numerous sensitive and complex social issues come to the courts for resolution--child custody, support, and visitation, child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, and mental health protective processing, products liability, and personal injury cases, to name a few. I urge you to consider how the Judiciary can best be structured to insure equitable, timely and efficient justice for the parties in each of these cases.

Many of these concerns are already before you either in specific bills, which you have introduced, or by implication from bills which would adjust the jurisdiction of the existing court structure. I urge you, therefore, to establish by concurrent resolution, the advisory body necessary to thoroughly review these issues and, when you have heard their recommendations, that you act to establish a court system for our "One Court of Justice" that is both structurally and fiscally sound.

Now I address a problem which I believe is gnawing at the very foundation of society as we know it today. I pose the question: Who will save our children? I am not talking about the Legislature saving them, or the Executive or the Judiciary saving them, but I am talking about all of us as public servants stepping up to the responsibility of providing the safe, nurturing environment to which each child in our state is entitled.

The need for a compassionate society to recognize its moral duty to provide for its children has never been more eloquently expressed than by G. Campbell Morgan in his work, "The Children's Playground in the City of God".

> God's purpose for the child and God's ideal for the child build the condition of public life. Everything in the life of the coming city will depend upon the little child. Everything will be carried forward in the interests of the little child. Among other things, the streets will be fit for children to play in. When you have a city with streets fit for children you have a city with streets fit for adults. If the child is safe everyone is safe.

When will we act to make our street safe for our children? In 1987 alone, over 85,000 cases of neglect, abuse or delinquency came before probate courts and 60% of our children in the inner cities dropped out of school. As of March 31st of this year, 67 children had suffered or died from gun shot wounds in the City of Detroit. You know these numbers as well as I do. Many of you have had to face grieving parents, families and classmates and tell them that you are trying to change things but, you say,--"It takes time. It takes money."

Those are hollow words to high school seniors who see the empty seats around them and know: "Johnny's dead; Mary dropped out; Bobby's in prison; Betty's in the Youth Home, Kenny's at a crack house..."

What can we do about the situation where 15-year-old boys tell their counsellors that they feel safer in the detention facilities than they do in the streets of their own neighborhoods. These problems may seem far removed from these halls where our laws are made, but it is here where we must begin.

And we have all begun. A year ago this month the Probate Court Task Force report commissioned by the Michigan Supreme Court called for the establishment of a 20th department, the Department of Children and Family Services, to assure that a minimum level of services would be available to any child no matter where he or she resides in the state. The Court's motivation in establishing this Task Force and developing such recommendations arose out of its desire to more effectively serve children and their families who come or may come within the court's jurisdiction. We found a crazy-quilt pattern of service delivery around the state--with some jurisdictions receiving adequate services through the creative genius of judges and administrators despite the confusing state level organization and funding. Unfortunately, in many communities, resources are such that not even well-schooled administrators and judges can cut their way through the jungle that we call the service delivery system to provide much needed services to children and families.

We, in the Judiciary, are not the only ones concerned about children and families! Senator Jack Welborn began last summer with a Committee to explore this 20th department concept. In November, 1987, Representative Hunter's Ad Hoc Committee on Early Intervention and Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency recommended the establishment of a Type I Agency to provide the necessary coordination and collaboration of services. In January, 1988, the Governor's Human Services Cabinet Task Force on Youth Services called for the establishment of the Michigan Center for Children and Families located within the Michigan Department of Social Services.

I review this history merely to show that we all agree that the problems are serious ones. We agree--across branches of State government--that we can and must serve our children better. We agree that we each must continue to examine our own delivery systems but even more strongly we know we must work together on a continuing basis.

Perhaps optimistically, I believe we can close the 1980's with a much improved delivery system for children. Over the last year many experienced and dedicated people from each of the three branches of government have together created the necessary yearning for a better system. I urge you, in conjunction with the Executive and Judicial Branches to establish a permanent Commission on Children's Issues. It is time that we bring together those individuals from our three branches of government who are responsible for providing services to our children and their families to serve as Michigan's conscience. Only in this way can we hope to achieve a consensus on those changes needed to insure the future of our children.

I realize that these are ambitious undertakings that I urge, but I would not urge them if I did not sense a willingness on the part of members of the Legislature and the people of this state to support efforts to secure a structurally and fiscally sound court system and to meet our moral commitment to our children.

History will tell what progress was made in the pursuit of justice in Michigan in the 1990s. Judgment of whether we here today have improved or impeded the administration of justice will be reserved for those sitting in your seats in the next decade. Let their hindsight praise our foresight. If this crusade is to have a beginning--let it be now!

Thirty-nine years ago, when I was graduated from Law School I found myself struggling to find a job. Wherever I turned I was told that I should not expect to find a position--after all, I was a woman, my father worked on the line at the Ford Motor Company, and I did not know any of the right people. While I cannot say that they were factually wrong, I can say that they were ultimately wrong, because they had not reckoned with my dream.

I concluded that I would accept any opportunity given to me but that I would not settle for it, I would earn better; I would not allow my reality to fall short of my dream.

Having carefully reviewed the State of the Judiciary reports delivered by my predecessors, I accept with gratitude what we have achieved together over the past two decades. But I will not settle for it. And now I know the right people--you who sit in this chamber this morning and my colleagues who fill the galleries. I know that you will not let reality fall short of the dream that you and I share for Michigan. We are writing history in this legislative session and in this term of Court. The question is: Will we be the historians of disappointment or will we be remembered as the architects of an improved justice system for ourselves and our children.

The
Supreme
Court

The Supreme Court

The Constitution of the State of Michigan
Art. VI Judicial Branch

"Sec. 4 The supreme court shall have general superintending control over all courts . . ."

Location	Judgeships
Lansing	7

December, 1987

THE SUPREME COURT

The Michigan Supreme Court is the highest court in the State, hearing cases appealed to it from other state courts. Applications for "leave to appeal" are filed with the Supreme Court and the Court decides whether to grant them. If an application is granted, the Supreme Court will hear the case. If denied, the decision of the lower court stands.

In addition to its judicial duties, the Supreme Court is charged with general administrative supervision of all courts in the State. This is referred to in the State Constitution as "general superintending control." The Supreme Court is responsible for establishing rules for practice and procedure in all courts.

The Supreme Court consists of seven Justices--the Chief Justice and six Associate Justices. Two Justices are elected every two years (one in the eighth year) in the November election. One Justice is selected (every two years) by the Court as Chief Justice. Although nominated by political parties, the Justices are elected on a non-partisan ballot, entirely separate from the ballot for other elective offices. Candidates for the Supreme Court must be qualified electors, licensed to practice law in Michigan, and at the time of election must be under 70 years of age. The salary of the Justices is fixed by the State Officers Compensation Commission and paid by the state.

Sessions of the Supreme Court are held in Lansing where the Justices hear oral arguments by attorneys in cases in which leave to appeal has been granted and which have been submitted in written briefs several weeks in advance of the hearing. The written opinion in each case, which receives the approval of a majority of the Justices, becomes the decision of the Court. A Justice may write a "concurring" opinion agreeing with the result of the majority opinion but for different reasons from those expressed in the majority opinion. If a justice disagrees with the majority opinion in whole or in part, the Justice may write the reasons for the disagreement in a "dissenting" opinion.

The State Court Administrator, appointed by the Justices, performs administrative duties assigned by the Court. The position is established in the State Constitution.

Supreme Court Activities

The Supreme Court accepted 2,190 new cases for filing during the year; disposed of 2,066 cases by opinion or order; and had 924 cases pending at year-end.

Significant issues in both civil and criminal law commanded the Justices' attention in 1987. Among the topics dealt with in their opinions were: appropriate sanctions for civil contempt of court convictions (In re Contempt of Dougherty; Smith v Williams International); determining the effective date of legislation resulting from initiated petitions (Frey v Department of Management and Budget); liability for injury to firefighters and police officers (Kreski v Modern Wholesale Electric Supply Co.); Miranda warnings issued by police officers (People v Hill); Department of

Social Services policies regarding the income of aliens (El Souri v Department of Social Services); and the use of seat belt evidence in personal injury cases (Lowe v Estate Motors Ltd.).

An ever-increasing share of the Court's workload is administering this State's One Court of Justice. Notable among those administrative matters were: a proposal for mandatory continuing legal education for persons licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan; comprehensive new Juvenile Court Rules; and rules for mediation of domestic relations cases. After considering comments by the bench, bar, and other concerned parties, the Court issued an Administrative Order which encourages but does not require submission of pleadings in all courts on letter-size rather than legal-size paper.

To ease the financial burden on litigating parties and to streamline the Court's own processes, the Justices in 1987 did away with the requirement for printed briefs. Parties may now file typewritten briefs and appendices on letter-size paper. In view of the simpler requirements, the time limits of the parties were also shortened.

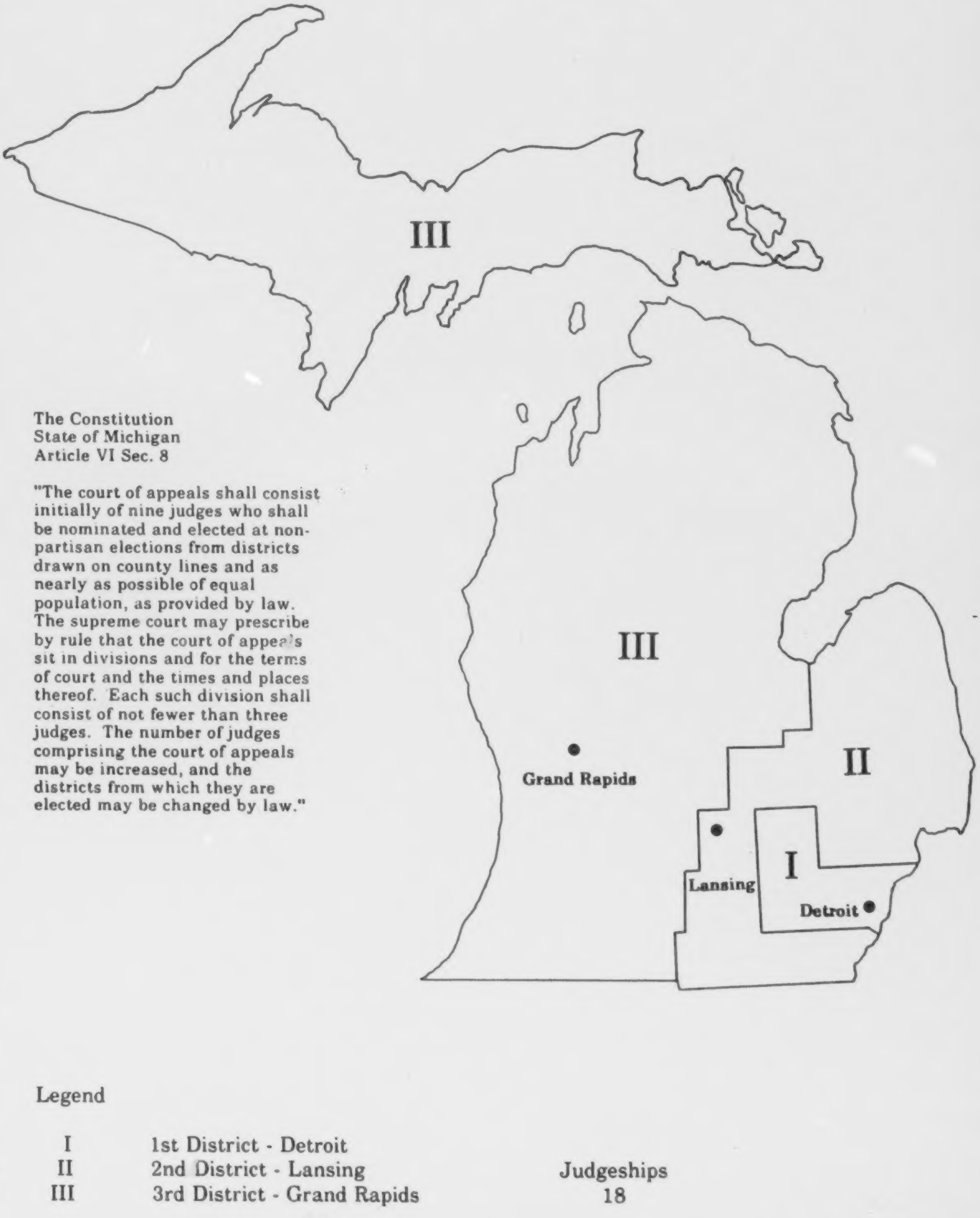
Cameras--from videotape to network affiliates--entered the state's courtrooms in 1987. Two circuit courts are conducting an experiment in using videotapes for the official court record and videotapes of certain small claims actions are being used in judicial education programs.

The most highly publicized and historic admission of cameras to the courtroom was the filming of the December, 1987 oral arguments at the Supreme Court. For the first time, radio and television were invited to record court proceedings not only at the Supreme Court, but also at the Court of Appeals and certain trial courts. These "pilot projects" gave the media, the courts, and the bar a foretaste of the formal, across-the-state one-year experiment which permits media recording of most court proceedings. A Supreme Court committee continues to monitor the experiment and will recommend any necessary adjustments during 1988.

During 1987, the Court received the "Caseflow Management Coordinating Committee Final Report" and the "Final Report of the Task Force on the Role of Probate Court in the Delivery of Services to Children and Families". Concerns identified in those documents as well as by the earlier Citizens' Commission to Improve Michigan Courts continued to be addressed by the Justices and remain on their agenda for 1988. Pursuant to a Citizens' Commission recommendation, the Court has appointed Task Forces on Gender Issues and on Racial/Ethnic Issues in the Courts. The two groups are charged with examining, and if necessary recommending changes in, court rules, procedures, and administration to "assure equal treatment for men and women, free from race or gender bias." Interim reports are due at the end of 1988.

Court of Appeals

Court of Appeals



The Constitution
State of Michigan
Article VI Sec. 8

"The court of appeals shall consist initially of nine judges who shall be nominated and elected at non-partisan elections from districts drawn on county lines and as nearly as possible of equal population, as provided by law. The supreme court may prescribe by rule that the court of appeals sit in divisions and for the terms of court and the times and places thereof. Each such division shall consist of not fewer than three judges. The number of judges comprising the court of appeals may be increased, and the districts from which they are elected may be changed by law."

Legend

I	1st District - Detroit	
II	2nd District - Lansing	Judgeships
III	3rd District - Grand Rapids	18

December, 1987

THE COURT OF APPEALS

The 1963 State Constitution established the Court of Appeals as an "intermediate" appellate court between the lower courts and the Supreme Court. Jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals is established by state law, but its practice and procedure is governed by Supreme Court Rules.

Judges of the Court of Appeals are chosen in non-partisan elections from districts drawn on county lines. The districts are as nearly as possible of equal population. The Legislature may increase the number of judges and alter the districts from which they are elected by changing the state law. A candidate for the Court of Appeals must be a lawyer, under 70 years of age, a qualified elector, and a resident of the district in which the candidate is running.

Court of Appeals Judges are elected for six-year terms. Their salaries are set by the Legislature. Every three years a Chief Judge is selected by the Court of Appeals Judges. In addition to hearing cases, the Chief Judge performs administrative duties and other assignments required by the Supreme Court.

Panels of Court of Appeals Judges hear cases in Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Marquette. The panels are rotated to encourage statewide uniformity in rulings by eliminating the likelihood of conflicting legal philosophies developing in specific geographical areas. The procedure for hearing cases is similar to that of the Supreme Court. The decision of a panel of the Court of Appeals is final except in those cases which the Supreme Court reviews.

The Court of Appeals hears civil and criminal cases. Persons convicted of criminal offenses have an appeal as a matter of right under the State Constitution.

Activities and Workload

In 1987, there were 8,186 cases filed with the Court of Appeals. This represents an increase of 2.8% over the 7,966 cases filed in 1986 and a 662.8% increase over the 1,235 cases filed in 1965 (see Figure 2.1).

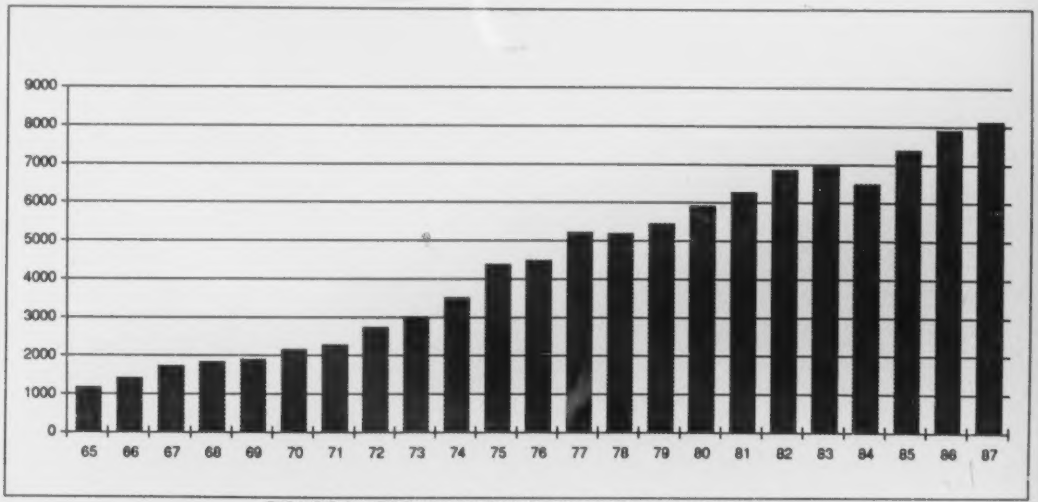


FIGURE 2.1 TRENDS IN COURT OF APPEALS FILINGS

In 1987, the Court of Appeals disposed of 7,502 cases. This represents an increase of 14.1% over the 6,573 cases disposed in 1986 and a 1168.5% increase over the number of cases disposed in 1965 (see Figure 2.2). In 1987, 44.3% (3,323) of the dispositions were by orders and 55.7% (4,179) were by opinions (see Table 2.1).

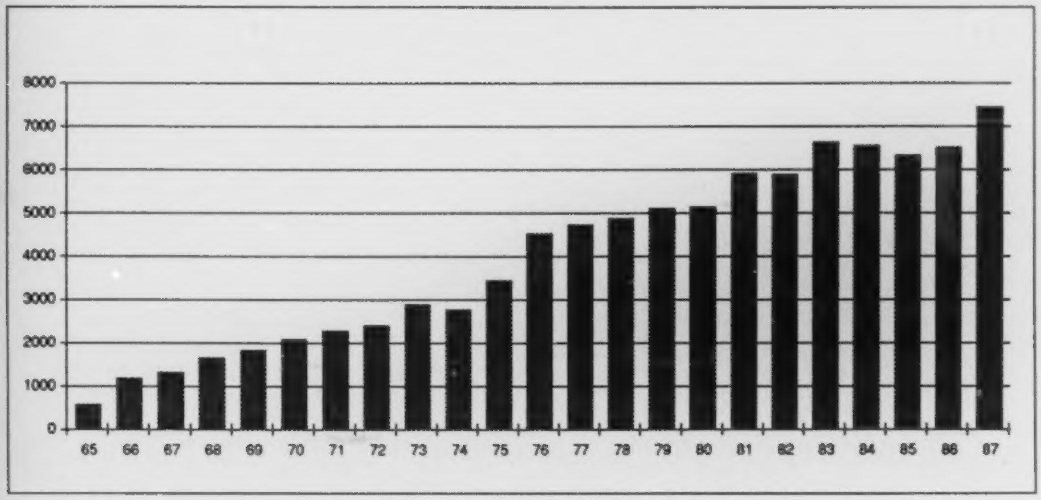


FIGURE 2.2 TRENDS IN COURT OF APPEALS DISPOSITIONS

Table 2.1: Trends in Dispositions by Opinion or Order in Court of Appeals

Year	Number Disposed	Disposed by Opinion	Percent Opinion	Disposed by Order	Percent Orders
1978	4,937	2,550	51.7	2,387	48.3
1979	5,159	2,790	54.1	2,369	45.9
1980	5,193	2,657	51.2	2,536	48.8
1981	5,977	3,052	51.1	2,925	48.9
1982	5,946	3,246	54.6	2,700	45.4
1983	6,690	3,791	56.7	2,899	43.3
1984	6,605	3,775	57.2	2,899	43.9
1985	6,386	3,694	57.8	2,614	40.9
1986	6,573	3,858	58.7	2,715	41.3
1987	7,502	4,179	55.7	3,323	44.3

The average number of cases filed in the Court of Appeals per judge has increased over the years. In 1987, there was an average of 454.8 cases filed per judge while in 1965 there were only 137.2 filings per judge (see Figure 2.3 and Table 2.2). The number of judges increased from 9 in 1965 to 12 in 1969 and to the current 18 in 1975.

The averages of new filings per judge do not reflect the impact of the temporary assignments of visiting judges to the court. Therefore, great care should be exercised in the use or analysis of these averages.

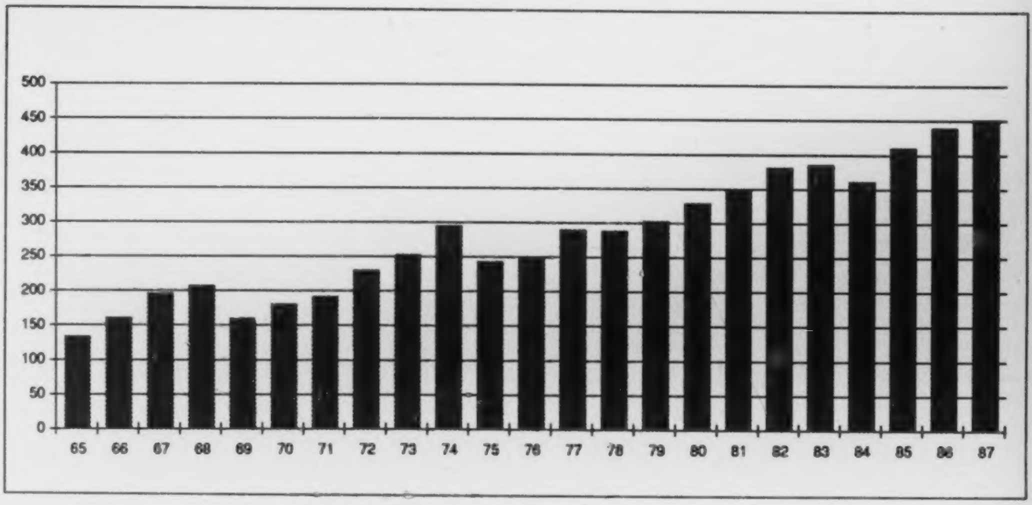


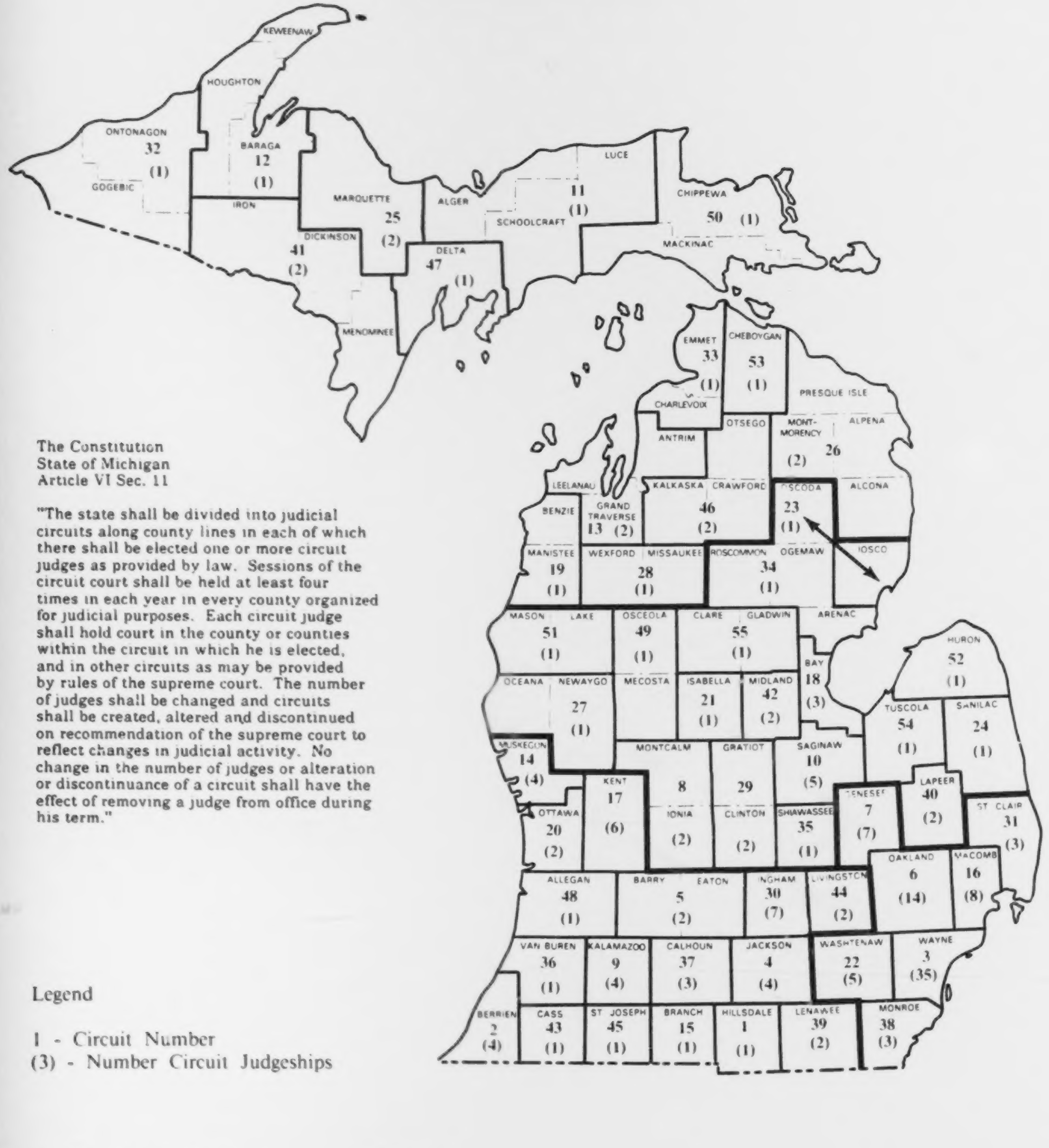
FIGURE 2.3: TRENDS IN COURT OF APPEALS FILINGS PER JUDGE

Table 2.2: Trends in Court of Appeals Filings per Judge.

Year	Number Filed	Number Disposed	Judges	Filings per Judge
1965	1,235	642	9	137.2
1966	1,475	1,250	9	163.9
1967	1,795	1,375	9	199.4
1968	1,894	1,712	9	210.4
1969	1,959	1,884	12	163.3
1970	2,214	2,133	12	184.5
1971	2,336	2,334	12	194.7
1972	2,799	2,459	12	233.3
1973	3,076	2,950	12	256.3
1974	3,579	2,824	12	298.3
1975	4,435	3,503	18	246.4
1976	4,544	4,584	18	252.4
1977	5,274	4,788	18	293.0
1978	5,248	4,937	18	291.6
1979	5,499	5,159	18	305.5
1980	5,980	5,193	18	332.2
1981	6,318	5,977	18	351.0
1982	6,911	5,946	18	383.9
1983	6,994	6,690	18	388.6
1984	6,554	6,605	18	364.1
1985	7,436	6,386	18	413.1
1986	7,966	6,573	18	442.6
1987	8,186	7,502	18	454.8

Circuit Court

CIRCUIT COURT


KEWEENAW
HOUGHTON
ONTONAGON
32
(1)
GOGEBIC
BARAGA
12
(1)
IRON
LUCE
MARQUETTE
25
(2)
ALGER
11
(1)
SCHOOLCRAFT
CHIPPEWA
50 (1)
DICKINSON
41
(2)
DELTA
47
(1)
MACKINAC
MENOMINEE
EMMET
33
(1)
CHEBOYGAN
53
(1)
CHARLEVOIX
PRESQUE ISLE
OTSEGO
MONT-MORENCY
26
(2)
ALPENA
ANTRIM
LEELANAU
KALKASKA
CRAWFORD
46
(2)
OSCODA
23
(1)
ALCONA
BENZIE
GRAND TRAVERSE
13 (2)
MANISTEE
19
(1)
WEXFORD
MISSAUKEE
28
(1)
ROSCOMMON
OGEMAW
34
(1)
IOSCO
MASON
LAKE
51
(1)
OSCEOLA
49
(1)
CLARE
GLADWIN
55
(1)
ARENAC
HURON
52
(1)
BAY
18
(3)
OCEANA
NEWAYGO
27
(1)
MECOSTA
ISABELLA
21
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MIDLAND
42
(2)
TUSCOLA
54
(1)
SANILAC
24
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MUSKEGON
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MONTCALM
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GRATIOT
29
SAGINAW
10
(5)
KENT
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GENESEE
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LAPEER
40
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OTTAWA
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IONIA
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CLINTON
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SHIAWASSEE
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ST CLAIR
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(3)
OAKLAND
6
(14)
MACOMB
16
(8)
ALLEGAN
48
(1)
BARRY
EATON
5
(2)
INGHAM
30
(7)
LIVINGSTON
44
(2)
VAN BUREN
36
(1)
KALAMAZOO
9
(4)
CALHOUN
37
(3)
JACKSON
4
(4)
WASHTENAW
22
(5)
WAYNE
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(35)
BERRIEN
2
(4)
CASS
43
(1)
ST JOSEPH
45
(1)
BRANCH
15
(1)
HILLSDALE
1
(1)
LENAWEE
39
(2)
MONROE
38
(3)

The Constitution
State of Michigan
Article VI Sec. 11

"The state shall be divided into judicial circuits along county lines in each of which there shall be elected one or more circuit judges as provided by law. Sessions of the circuit court shall be held at least four times in each year in every county organized for judicial purposes. Each circuit judge shall hold court in the county or counties within the circuit in which he is elected, and in other circuits as may be provided by rules of the supreme court. The number of judges shall be changed and circuits shall be created, altered and discontinued on recommendation of the supreme court to reflect changes in judicial activity. No change in the number of judges or alteration or discontinuance of a circuit shall have the effect of removing a judge from office during his term."

Legend

1 - Circuit Number
(3) - Number Circuit Judgeships

Number of Circuit Courts	Judgeships
55	167

December, 1987

CIRCUIT COURT

The State is divided into judicial circuits along county lines. The number of judges within a circuit is established by the Legislature to accommodate required judicial activity. In multi-county circuits, judges travel from one county to another to hold court sessions.

The Circuit Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan because of its very broad powers. The Circuit Court has jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court. Generally speaking, the Circuit Court has original jurisdiction in all civil cases involving more than $10,000, in all criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors, and in all domestic relations cases, including divorce and paternity actions.

The Circuit Court also hears cases appealed from lower courts and from some administrative agencies of state government. In addition, the Circuit Court has superintending control over other courts within the judicial circuit, subject to final superintending control of the Supreme Court.

The Recorder's Court is a special court, established in 1857, which has jurisdiction in all felony criminal cases arising within the City of Detroit. During 1986, the Recorder's Court and 3rd Circuit Court began an "administrative unification" in which all felony cases in Wayne County are tried in Recorder's Court facilities. On a rotating basis, five Wayne County Circuit judges are assigned to the Recorder's Court. This program allows additional judges to be assigned to hear civil cases in Wayne County.

Circuit judges are elected for terms of six years in non-partisan elections. A candidate must be a qualified elector, a resident of the judicial circuit, a lawyer and under 70 years of age. The Legislature sets salaries for circuit judges, which may be supplemented by counties.

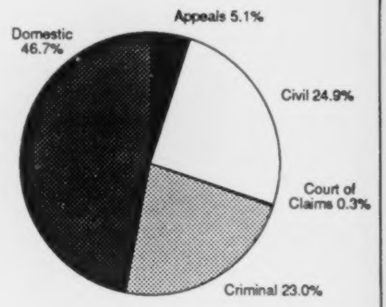


FIGURE 3.1: CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

Circuit Court Activities

There were 193,755 new cases filed in Michigan Circuit Courts in 1987. Of these new cases, 9,867 (5.1%) were appeals, 90,551 (46.7%) involved domestic relations, 48,262 (24.9%) concerned civil matters, 44,520 (23.0%) concerned criminal matters, and 555 (0.3%) were Court of Claims cases (see Figure 3.1).

Between 1986 and 1987 total new cases filed decreased by 1.9% (-3,782). Appeals cases decreased by 0.9% (-87), domestic relations actions decreased by 0.5% (402), civil cases decreased by 11.3% (-6,163), criminal cases increased by 6.6% (2,769), and Court of Claims cases decreased by 31.8% (-259).

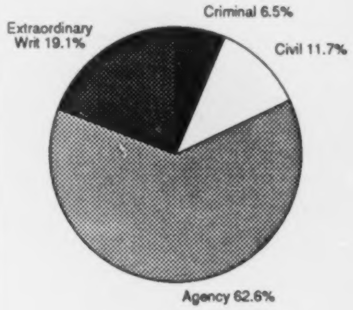


FIGURE 3.2: CIRCUIT COURT APPEALS FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

The majority of the appeals filed (6,176 or 62.6%) concerned state agency decisions (see Figure 3.2). Twelve percent (11.7%) concerned civil matters, 6.5% concerned criminal matters, and 19.1% sought extraordinary writs. Agency appeals decreased by 1.3% (-81) and extraordinary writs decreased by 0.3% (-6) while civil and criminal appeals did not change.

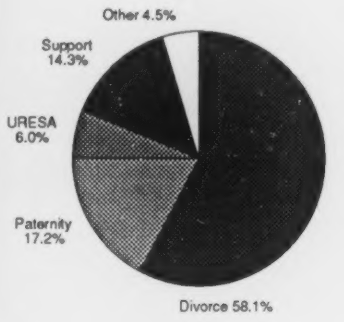


FIGURE 3.3: CIRCUIT COURT DOMESTIC FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

Of the 90,551 domestic relations filings, the majority (58.1%) involved divorce, 14.3% were support actions, 17.2% involved paternity, 6.0% involved URESA, and 4.5% involved other matters (see Figure 3.3). The majority of the divorce cases involved marriages with children (56.8%) while 43.2% involved no children. Between 1986 and 1987 new divorce cases remained relatively stable (decreasing 0.5%). Paternity cases increased by 18.9% while URESA decreased by 13.5 % and support cases decreased by 9.5%.

Over half (54.5%) of the 48,262 civil filings were general civil cases while 42.7% involved tort claims, and 2.8% involved other issues (see Figure 3.4). Of the tort claims, 46.5% concerned automobile negligence. Compared to 1986, tort claim filings decreased by 23.8% while civil suits (other category) increased by 26.4%.

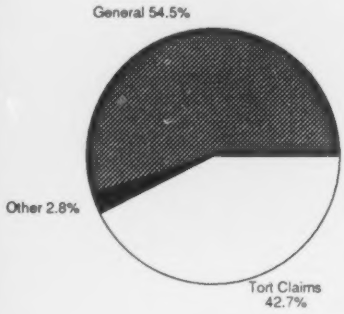


FIGURE 3.4: CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

Ninety percent (90.0%) of the 44,520 criminal filings involved non-capital offenses and 10.0% involved capital offenses (see Figure 3.5). Between 1986 and 1987 capital criminal cases increased by 6.6% (278) and non-capital criminal cases increased by 6.6% (+2,491).

The average number of new filings per judge on a statewide basis in 1987 was 988.5 (see Table 3.1 for regional information and Table 3.4 for individual court detail).

Table 3.1: Average Number of Filings per Circuit Judge by Region, 1987

Region	Filed 1987	Number of Judges	Average per Judge
Region I	111,256	104	1069.8
Region II	50,005	46	1087.1
Region III	21,410	27	793.0
Region IV	11,084	19	583.4
Statewide Total	193,755	196	988.5

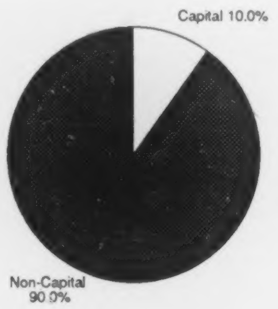


FIGURE 3.5: CIRCUIT COURT CRIMINAL FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

The averages for new filings per judge do not reflect the impact of the temporary assignments of judges to a court or the temporary assignment of a court's judge(s) to another court. Further, the averages do not reflect the impact of varying administrative workload requirements, including such matters as supervision of multi-site offices, or travel to multiple court locations. Therefore, great care should be exercised in the use or analysis of these averages.

Between 1983 and 1987, Circuit Court filings increased by 6,457 (3.4%). Five year trends in new filings are displayed in Figure 3.6 and Table 3.2 (see Table 3.5 for individual court detail).

At the end of 1987, there were 141,248 cases pending in Circuit Court (see Table 3.3). Of these 3.8% (5,377) were appeals, 38.7% (54,690) were

Table 3.2: Trends in Circuit Court Filings

Region	Filed 1983	Filed 1984	Filed 1985	Filed 1986	Filed 1987
Region I	109,979	108,938	109,881	115,377	111,256
Region II	45,971	46,131	47,415	49,626	50,005
Region III	20,169	19,888	20,816	21,466	21,410
Region IV	11,179	11,273	10,557	11,068	11,084
Statewide Total	187,298	186,230	188,669	197,537	193,755

domestic cases, 44.3% (62,516) were civil cases, 12.2% (17,188) were criminal cases, and 1.0% (1,477) were Court of Claims cases (see Figure 3.7). Detailed caseload information is presented in Table 3.6.

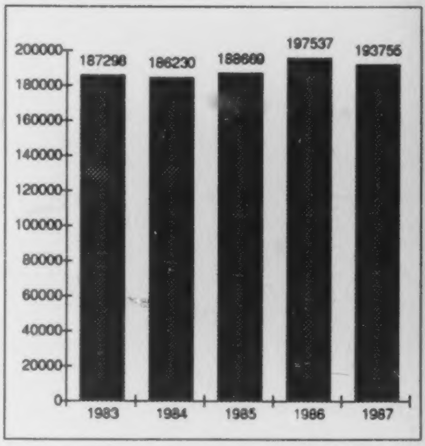


FIGURE 3.6: TRENDS IN CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS

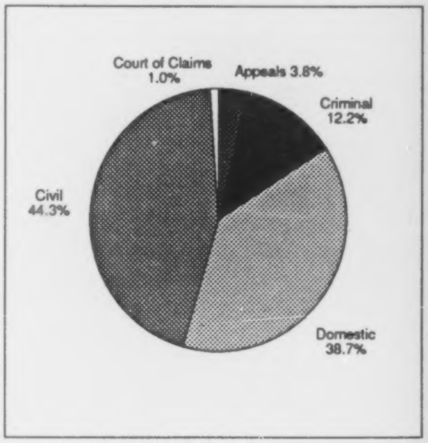


FIGURE 3.7: CIRCUIT COURT ENDING PENDING CASES BY TYPE, 1987

Table 3.3: Circuit Court Ending Pending Cases, 1987

Case Type	Ending Pending	Percent Within Case Type	Percent of Total
Appeals			
Criminal	751	14.0	0.5
Civil	1,136	21.1	0.8
Agency	2,806	52.2	2.0
Other	684	12.7	0.5
Total Appeals	5,377	100.0	3.8
Domestic Relations			
Divorce	37,294	68.2	26.4
Paternity	5,826	10.7	4.1
URESA	817	1.5	0.6
Support	7,611	13.9	5.4
Other	3,142	5.7	2.2
Total Domestic	54,690	100.0	38.7
Civil			
General	27,345	43.7	19.4
Damage	34,222	54.7	24.2
Other	949	1.5	0.7
Total Civil	62,516	100.0	44.3
Criminal			
Capital	2,327	13.5	1.6
Non-Capital	14,861	86.5	10.5
Total Criminal	17,188	100.0	12.2
Court of Claims	1,477	100.0	1.0
Total	141,248	100.0	100.0

Table 3.4: Average Number of Filings per Judge by Circuit Court, 1987

Court	Circuit	Filed 1987	Number of Judges	Average per Judge
Region I				
Wayne	3	44,723	35	1,277.8
Recorder's Court	RC	10,970	29	378.3
Court Summary	3/RC	55,693	64	870.2
Oakland	6	24,478	14	1,748.4
Genesee	7	9,532	7	1,361.7
Macomb	16	11,663	8	1,457.9
Washtenaw	22	4,888	5	977.6
St. Clair	31	2,730	3	910.0
Monroe	38	2,272	3	757.3
Region I Total		111,256	104	1069.8
Region II				
Hillsdale	1	608	1	608.0
Berrien	2	3,976	4	994.0
Jackson	4	3,455	4	863.7
Barry/Eaton	5	2,357	2	1,178.5
Kalamazoo	9	4,527	4	1,131.7
Muskegon	14	4,024	4	1,006.0
Branch	15	800	1	800.0
Kent	17	9,557	6	1,592.8
Ottawa	20	2,300	2	1,150.0
Ingham & Court of Claims	30	7,264	7	1,037.7
Van Buren	36	1,566	1	1,566.0
Calhoun	37	2,858	3	952.7
Lenawee	39	1,713	2	856.5
Cass	43	823	1	823.0
Livingston	44	1,855	2	927.5
St. Joseph	45	1,091	1	1,091.0
Allegan	48	1,231	1	1,231.0
Region II Total		50,005	46	1087.1
Region III				
Ionia/Montcalm	8	1,784	2	892.0
Saginaw	10	4,851	5	970.2
Bay	18	1,978	3	659.3
Isabella	21	802	1	802.0
Iosco/Oscoda	23	676	1	676.0
Sanilac	24	640	1	640.0
Newaygo/Oceana	27	1,246	1	1,246.0
Clinton/Gratiot	29	1,416	2	708.0
Arenac/Ogemaw/ Roscommon	34	981	1	981.0
Shiawassee	35	1,055	1	1,055.0
Lapeer	40	1,198	2	599.0
Midland	42	1,034	2	517.0
Mecosta/Osceola	49	958	1	958.0
Lake/Mason	51	601	1	601.0
Huron	52	433	1	433.0
Tuscola	54	852	1	852.0
Clare/Gladwin	55	905	1	905.0
Region III Total		21,410	27	793.0

Table 3.4: Average Number of Filings per Judge by Circuit Court, 1987 Cont.

Court	Circuit	Filed 1987	Number of Judges	Average per Judge
Region IV				
Alger/Luce/Schoolcraft	11	396	1	396.0
Baraga/Houghton/Keweenaw	12	477	1	477.0
Antrim/Gd Traverse/Leelanau	13	1,681	2	840.5
Benzie/Manistee	19	605	1	605.0
Marquette	25	1,142	2	571.0
Alcona/Alpena/Montmorency/ Presque Isle	26	1,032	2	516.0
Missaukee/Wexford	28	718	1	718.0
Gogebic/Ontonagon	32	456	1	456.0
Charlevois/Emmet	33	870	1	870.0
Dickinson/Iron/Menominee	41	1,073	2	536.5
Crawford/Kalkaska/Otsego	46	990	2	495.0
Delta	47	528	1	528.0
Chippewa/Mackinac	50	697	1	697.0
Cheboygan	53	419	1	419.0
Region IV Total		11,084	19	583.4
Statewide Total		193,755	196	988.5

Table 3.5: Trends in Circuit Court Filings

Court	Circuit	Filed 1983	Filed 1984	Filed 1985	Filed 1986	Filed 1987
Region I						
Wayne	3	46,593	50,037	48,370	48,180	44,723
Recorder's Court	RC	10,524	8,500	8,799	10,469	10,970
Court Summary	3/RC	57,117	58,537	57,169	58,649	55,693
Oakland	6	23,176	23,108	22,985	24,752	24,478
Genesee	7	8,798	8,666	9,405	10,474	9,532
Macomb	16	11,106	9,262	11,003	11,608	11,663
Washtenaw	22	4,824	4,750	4,823	5,024	4,888
St. Clair	31	2,677	2,634	2,633	2,655	2,730
Monroe	38	2,281	1,981	1,863	2,215	2,272
Region I Total		109,979	108,938	109,881	115,377	111,256
Region II						
Hillsdale	1	777	725	653	662	608
Berrien	2	3,615	3,655	3,800	3,864	3,976
Jackson	4	3,334	3,478	3,437	3,570	3,455
Barry/Eaton	5	1,930	2,074	2,080	2,077	2,357
Kalamazoo	9	4,128	3,924	4,210	4,466	4,527
Muskegon	14	3,687	3,847	4,021	3,793	4,024
Branch	15	762	761	833	881	800
Kent	17	8,772	8,846	8,928	9,369	9,557
Ottawa	20	1,898	1,963	2,110	2,292	2,300
Ingham & Court of Claims	30	7,074	6,505	6,809	7,702	7,264
Van Buren	36	1,411	1,418	1,418	1,491	1,566
Calhoun	37	2,324	2,619	2,694	2,701	2,858
Lenawee	39	1,570	1,742	1,632	1,640	1,713
Cass	43	814	1,040	945	975	823
Livingston	44	1,747	1,636	1,704	1,750	1,855
St. Joseph	45	946	760	1,022	1,137	1,091
Allegan	48	1,182	1,138	1,119	1,256	1,231
Region II Total		45,971	46,131	47,415	49,626	50,005
Region III						
Ionia/Montcalm	8	1,411	1,372	1,731	1,807	1,784
Saginaw	10	5,327	5,117	4,887	4,928	4,851
Bay	18	1,769	2,037	1,974	2,138	1,978
Isabella	21	698	748	799	891	802
Iosco/Oscoda	23	409	475	616	613	676
Sanilac	24	649	531	752	585	640
Newaygo/Oceana	27	1,006	1,147	1,132	1,220	1,246
Clinton/Gratiot	29	1,384	1,408	1,336	1,368	1,416
Arenac/Ogemaw/Roscommon	34	949	982	987	967	981
Shiawassee	35	1,093	1,014	1,117	1,063	1,055
Lapeer	40	1,144	1,031	1,047	1,203	1,198
Midland	42	1,093	976	1,032	1,008	1,034
Mecosta/Osceola	49	603	574	838	949	958
Lake/Mason	51	649	554	557	608	601
Huron	52	389	403	370	436	433
Tuscola	54	827	748	838	811	852
Clare/Gladwin	55	769	771	803	871	905
Region III Total		20,169	19,888	20,816	21,466	21,410

Table 3.5: Trends in Circuit Court Filings, Continued

Court	Circuit	Filed 1983	Filed 1984	Filed 1985	Filed 1986	Filed 1987
Region IV						
Alger/Luce/Schoolcraft	11	361	377	338	364	396
Baraga/Houghton/ Keweenaw	12	497	468	467	459	477
Antrim/Gd Traverse/ Leelanau	13	1,703	1,706	1,576	1,682	1,681
Benzie/Manistee	19	623	638	512	509	605
Marquette	25	1,287	1,241	1,012	1,198	1,142
Alcona/Alpena/ Montmorency/ Presque Isle	26	1,073	1,088	1,039	1,031	1,032
Missaukee/Wexford	28	686	638	655	705	718
Gogebic/Ontonagon	32	370	399	403	419	456
Charlevois/Emmet	33	784	798	809	791	870
Dickinson/Iron/ Menominee	41	1,017	1,159	1,044	1,100	1,073
Crawford/Kalkaska/ Otsego	46	1,096	1,069	973	966	990
Delta	47	571	567	564	618	528
Chippewa/Mackinac	50	657	724	732	785	697
Cheboygan	53	454	401	433	441	419
Region IV Total		11,179	11,273	10,557	11,068	11,084
Statewide Total		187,298	186,230	188,669	197,537	193,755

Table 3.6: Circuit Court Summary Report

	Appeals				Domestic Relations					
	Criminal	Civil	Agency	Other	Divorce No Child	Divorce W/Child	Paternity	Initiate URESA	Support	Other
Beginning Pending	756	1,231	3,307	996	13,220	27,888	6,600	787	5,696	2,981
New Cases Filed	645	1,157	6,176	1,889	22,731	29,838	15,565	5,392	12,913	4,112
Re-Opened Cases	14	246	658	184	1,574	3,154	1,858	45	115	355
Total Caseload	1,415	2,634	10,141	3,069	37,525	60,880	24,023	6,224	18,724	7,448
Dispositions										
Jury Verdicts	5	3	0	1	0	2	50	0	0	0
Non-Jury Verdicts	0	9	109	14	355	871	78	3	13	23
Guilty Pleas, Defaults Uncontested, Settled	31	57	699	148	17,658	22,191	9,898	519	4,088	1,037
Removal/Transfers	168	95	81	15	25	58	8	301	3	56
No Progress Dismissals	8	64	489	197	1,969	3,242	812	66	236	313
Non Service Dismissals	3	7	67	55	864	1,214	2,733	5	982	244
Dismissals	212	627	2,095	495	2,987	5,366	3,366	299	1,331	1,225
Other Dispositions	237	636	3,795	1,460	1,795	2,514	1,252	4,214	4,460	1,408
Total Dispositions	664	1,498	7,335	2,385	25,653	35,458	18,197	5,407	11,113	4,306
Ending Pending	751	1,136	2,806	684	11,872	25,422	5,826	817	7,611	3,142
Cases Pending Over Two Years	42	483	979	184	485	1,200	157	63	1,443	911

Table 3.6: Circuit Court Summary Report, Continued

	Civil							
	General	Damage Suit		Other	Criminal		Court of Claims	Total
		Auto Neg.	Other		Capital	Non-Capital		
Beginning Pending	29,712	13,515	27,128	802	2,103	12,973	1,671	151,366
New Cases Filed	26,325	9,575	11,021	1,341	4,465	40,055	555	193,755
Re-Opened Cases	4,955	2,602	6,558	202	338	4,048	263	27,169
Total Caseload	60,992	25,692	44,707	2,345	6,906	57,076	2,489	372,290
Dispositions								
Jury Verdicts	291	243	707	1	822	1,450	0	3,575
Non-Jury Verdicts	514	45	71	13	726	2,024	78	4,946
Guilty Pleas, Defaults Uncontested, Settled	8,994	2,230	3,385	557	2,037	25,536	151	99,216
Removal/Transfers	2,322	1,208	2,605	33	88	1,308	256	8,630
No Progress Dismissals	3,699	752	1,669	79	1	9	51	13,656
Non Service Dismissals	1,682	514	858	46	1	0	27	9,302
Dismissals	12,427	6,530	12,079	374	629	5,601	272	55,915
Other Dispositions	3,718	1,027	2,254	293	275	6,287	177	35,802
Total Dispositions	33,647	12,549	23,628	1,396	4,579	42,215	1,012	231,042
Ending Pending	27,345	13,143	21,079	949	2,327	14,861	1,477	141,248
Cases Pending Over Two Years	3,006	1,322	3,588	84	32	261	693	14,933

MICHIGAN COURT OF CLAIMS

The jurisdiction of the Court of Claims, except as otherwise provided by law, extends over claims and demands against the State or any of its departments, commissions, boards, institutions, arms or agencies, except those arising from line-of-duty injuries to State employees. Claimants may bring suit in the Court of Claims provided the claim is $1,000.00 or more. The State Administrative Board is vested with discretionary authority in claims under $1,000.00

The Court of Claims is a function of the 30th Judicial Circuit Court in Ingham County.

Court of Claims Activities

Significant changes and accomplishments occurred in the Court of Claims in 1987. The computerized docketing system that was implemented in 1986 was improved and expanded upon to include a scheduling component. This component allows court personnel to schedule all trials and mediation on the computer and automatically generates notices to parties and/or attorneys of record.

Mediation has become an increasingly useful means of alternative dispute resolution. Most Court of Claims cases that remain in the 30th Circuit Court are referred to mediation. Use of mediation has increased over the last four years, as displayed in Table 3.7.

In 1987, 555 new cases were filed with the Court of Claims. Figure 3.8 displays trends in Court of Claims filings.

The Court made significant progress in applying caseflow management techniques to Court of Claims cases to bring them in line with the Supreme Court recommended case processing time standards. Court personnel participated in a Michigan Judicial Institute seminar, "Defining and Achieving Excellence in Caseflow Management," and targeted Court of Claims cases for special consideration, due to their unique characteristics and impact on court resources.

In addition, efforts continue to attempt to determine the status of Court of Claims cases consolidated with cases in other circuit courts. A number of cases have been closed as a result of this effort, and it is anticipated that more will be disposed as cases are identified and reported.

Table 3.8 displays the Court of Claims caseload summary for the year 1987. Significantly, the number of cases that were disposed rose 41.8%, while the number of pending cases fell by 11.6%.

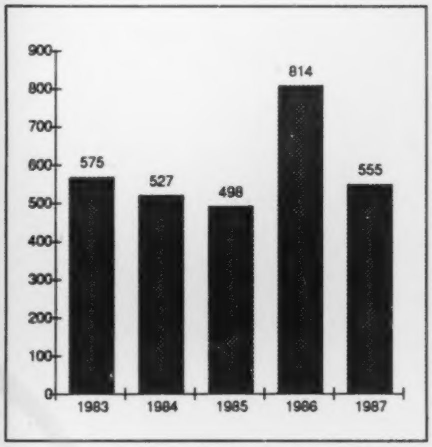


FIGURE 3.8: TRENDS IN COURT OF CLAIMS FILINGS

Table 3.7: Court of Claims Cases Referred to Mediation

	1984	1985	1986	1987
Referrals to Mediation	54	142	174	182
Percentage of Filed Cases	10.3%	28.5%	21.4%	32.8%

Goals

The goals of the Court of Claims for 1988 are:

- Reduce the number and age of pending cases by following the delay reduction plan and continuing to apply recognized caseflow management techniques.

- Improve the reporting of activity and dispositions of Court of Claims cases consolidated with other Circuit Court cases.

- Expand the use of automation in docketing, scheduling, and tracking of Court of Claims cases and in generation of statistical information for reporting and management purposes.

Table 3.8: Court of Claims Summary Report, 1987

Cases Pending at Beginning of Year	1,671
Cases Commenced During Year	555
Cases Remanded From Upper Courts	2
Cases Reinstated	9
Total Cases to be disposed of	2,237
Consent Judgement	148
Dismissed on Stipulation	109
Dismissed on Motions	101
Voluntary Dismissal	16
Dismissed by Court	43
Judgement for Plaintiff	54
Judgement for Defendant	24
Default Judgement for Plaintiff	2
Settled	0
Discontinued by Stipulation	7
Dismissed for Lack of Progress	51
Dismissed for Lack of Service	27
Remanded-Removed	4
Consolidated with Other Cases	165
Closed-Inactive	9
Total Cases Disposed of During Year	760
Total Cases Pending at End of Year	1,477
Cases Pending Two Years or Longer	623
Cases Appealed to Court of Appeals During Year	25
Cases Reassigned	83
Cases Joined With Pending Circuit Court Actions in Other Circuit Courts	169

FRIEND OF THE COURT

The Friend of the Court office was created by statute in 1919. There is at least one office for each circuit court. The Friend of the Court has the following duties according to law: (1) To investigate, report and make recommendations to the court regarding custody, visitation and support issues, (2) To provide mediation as another way of settling disagreements over custody and visitation of children, (3) To collect, record, and distribute all support payments ordered by the court and, (4) To enforce all custody, visitation, and support orders entered by the court.

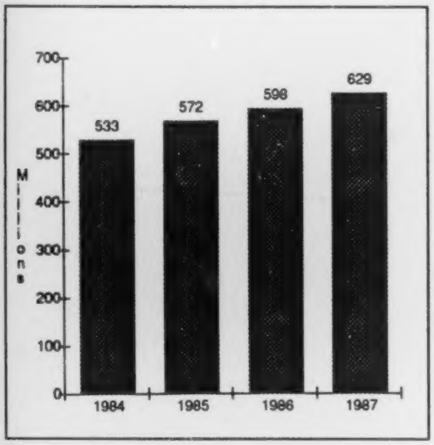


FIGURE 3.9: TRENDS IN FRIEND OF THE COURT SUPPORT COLLECTIONS

Note: Support is Child or Spousal

In 1987, over $629 million in child and spousal support were collected by the Friends of the Court (see Figure 3.9). This represents an increase of $31 million from 1986 and an increase of $57 million from 1985.

In 1987, $134 million (21.3%) in support collections were for cases involving Aid for Dependent Children (ADC) recipients while $495 million (78.7%) in support collections were for non-ADC recipient cases (see Figure 3.10). Interception of State and Federal tax refunds of delinquent payers resulted in collections of over $30 million.

Friend of the Court offices generated over $55 million in revenue in 1987 - over $5 million for the county Friend of the Court Funds (9.1%) and over $50 million (90.9%) for county general funds (see Figure 3.11).

The county Friend of the Court Fund was created by the Legislature in 1983. This fund consists of special fees relating to services provided by the Friend of the Court prior to entry of judgment in divorce cases and incentive payments received from the state for collection of child support in ADC recipient cases.

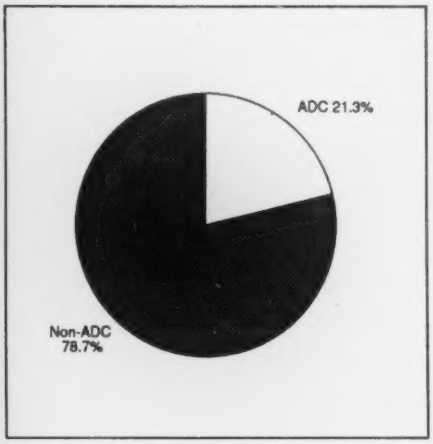


FIGURE 3.10: FRIEND OF THE COURT SUPPORT COLLECTIONS

Note: Support is Child or Spousal

The county general fund receives statutory service fees for collecting child support, federal incentive payments for collection of child support, and Cooperative Reimbursement payments from contractual agreements with the Office of Child Support of the Department of Social Services.

The Friend of the Court caseload for 1987 was 725,724 (see Figure 3.12). This represents an increase of 27,490 cases from 1986 and an increase of 87,076 cases from 1985. A Friend of the Court case is a domestic relations case in which the Friend of the Court currently is providing or may be required to provide services relating to child custody and visitation, and collection and enforcement of support obligations. Friend of the Court staff increased from 1,384 in 1986 to 1,495 in 1987.

In 1987, Friends of the Court filed 11,426 petitions to modify court orders pertaining to custody, visitation, and support. Support related matters accounted for the majority of the petitions filed. The breakdown is illustrated in Table 3.9.

Table 3.9: Friend of the Court Petitions Filed

	1985	1986	1987
Custody	305	275	285
Visitation	594	663	552
Support Increase	7,108	9,364	7,385
Support Decrease	1,708	1,736	2,308
Total Petitions Filed	9,820	12,381	11,426

Recommendation activity generated by Friend of the Court investigations increased in all reported categories in 1987 (see Table 3.10).

Table 3.10: Recommendations Made by Friend of the Court

	1985	1986	1987
Custody Recommendations	20,582	16,698	16,768
Visitation Recommendations	20,123	16,534	17,134
Support Recommendations	45,658	40,549	42,949
Total Recommendations	94,662	82,033	82,526

Show cause activity for visitation matters increased dramatically in 1987. Custody show cause activity decreased and support show cause activity increased slightly in most areas (see Table 3.11).

Table 3.11: Friend of the Court Show Cause Activity

	1986	1987
Custody Requested	118	61
Visitation Requested	1,697	3,095
Support Requested	110,907	118,159
Total Show Cause Activity	112,722	121,315

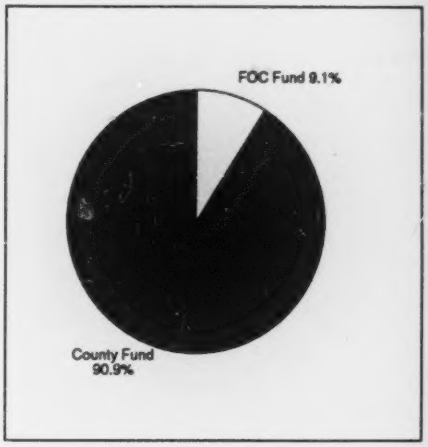


FIGURE 3.11: FRIEND OF THE COURT GENERATED REVENUE

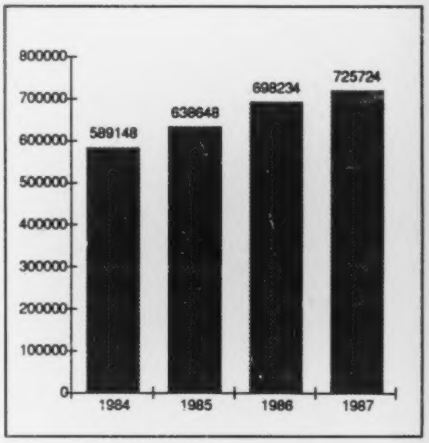
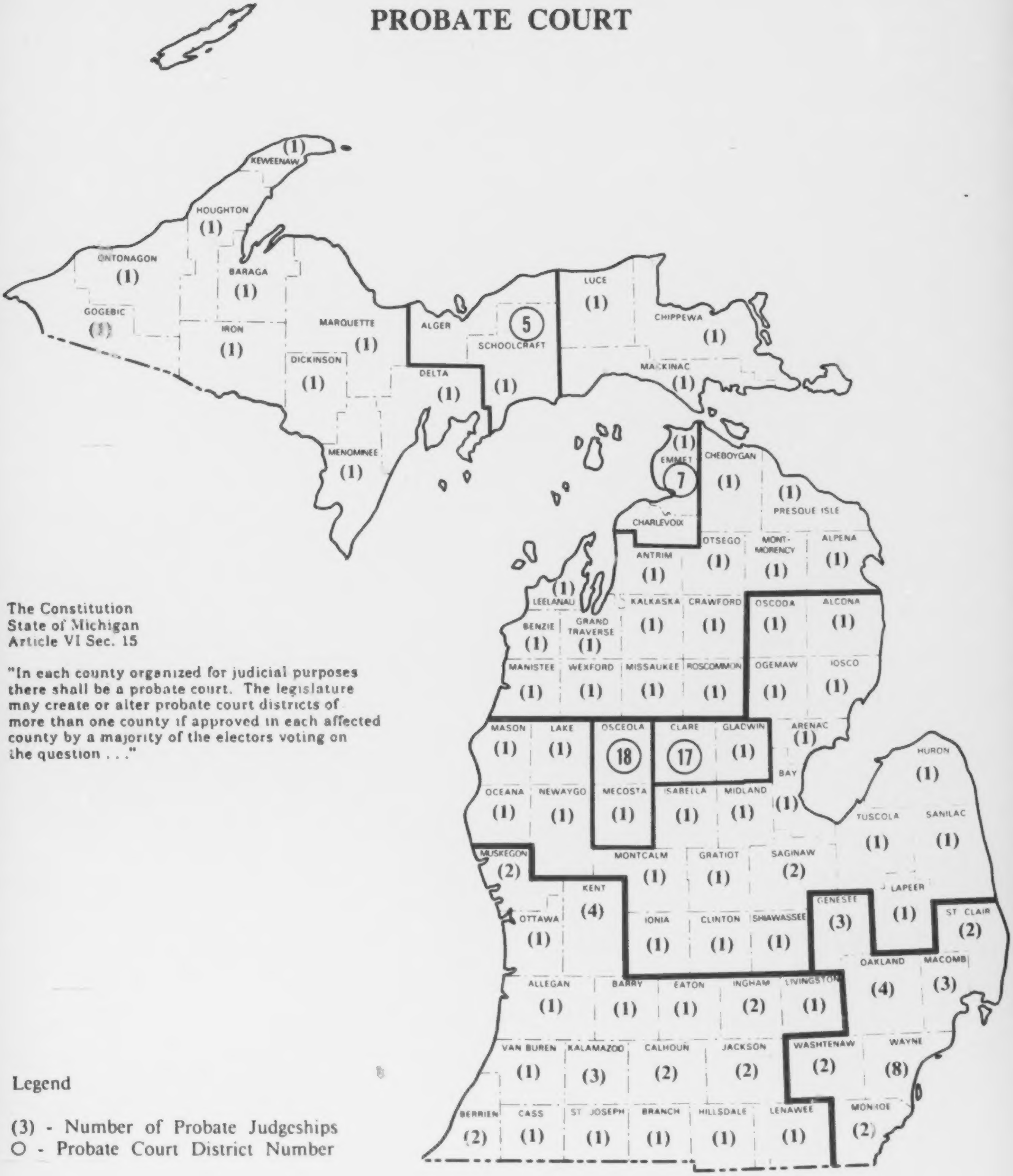


FIGURE 3.12: TRENDS IN FRIEND OF THE COURT CASELOAD

Probate
Court

PROBATE COURT


KEWEENAW (1)
HOUGHTON (1)
ONTONAGON (1)
BARAGA (1)
GOGEBIC (1)
IRON (1)
MARQUETTE (1)
DICKINSON (1)
MENOMINEE (1)
ALGER
5
SCHOOLCRAFT (1)
DELTA (1)
LUCE (1)
CHIPPEWA (1)
MACKINAC (1)
EMMET (1)
7
CHARLEVOIX
CHEBOYGAN (1)
PRESQUE ISLE (1)
OTSEGO (1)
MONTMORENCY (1)
ALPENA (1)
ANTRIM (1)
LEELANAU (1)
BENZIE (1)
GRAND TRAVERSE (1)
KALKASKA (1)
CRAWFORD (1)
OSCODA (1)
ALCONA (1)
MANISTEE (1)
WEXFORD (1)
MISSAUKEE (1)
ROSCOMMON (1)
OGEMAW (1)
IOSCO (1)
MASON (1)
LAKE (1)
OSCEOLA
18
CLARE
17
GLADWIN (1)
ARENAC (1)
HURON (1)
OCEANA (1)
NEWAYGO (1)
MECOSTA (1)
ISABELLA (1)
MIDLAND (1)
BAY (1)
TUSCOLA (1)
SANILAC (1)
MUSKEGON (2)
MONTCALM (1)
GRATIOT (1)
SAGINAW (2)
KENT (4)
LAPEER (1)
OTTAWA (1)
IONIA (1)
CLINTON (1)
SHIAWASSEE (1)
GENESEE (3)
ST CLAIR (2)
OAKLAND (4)
MACOMB (3)
ALLEGAN (1)
BARRY (1)
EATON (1)
INGHAM (2)
LIVINGSTON (1)
VAN BUREN (1)
KALAMAZOO (3)
CALHOUN (2)
JACKSON (2)
WASHTENAW (2)
WAYNE (8)
BERRIEN (2)
CASS (1)
ST JOSEPH (1)
BRANCH (1)
HILLSDALE (1)
LENAWEE (1)
MONROE (2)

The Constitution
State of Michigan
Article VI Sec. 15

"In each county organized for judicial purposes there shall be a probate court. The legislature may create or alter probate court districts of more than one county if approved in each affected county by a majority of the electors voting on the question . . ."

Legend

(3) - Number of Probate Judgeships
○ - Probate Court District Number

Number of Probate Courts	Judgeships
79	107

December, 1987

PROBATE COURT

There is a Probate Court in each Michigan county, with the exception of eight counties which have consolidated to form four Probate Court districts. Each district has one judge, and each of the remaining counties has one or more judges, depending on the caseload within the county.

The Probate Court is a court of original jurisdiction. It exercises exclusive jurisdiction in such matters as juvenile delinquency, neglect, abuse, and adoption proceedings. Another major function is the court's supervision of "probating" of wills and of the administration of estates and trusts of deceased persons by personal representatives.

The Probate Court also hears cases pertaining to condemnation of land, guardianships, and the commitment for hospital care of mentally ill persons, the mentally handicapped, and addicted persons.

The Probate Court's juvenile division, commonly known as Juvenile Court, handles cases of families and children under the age of 17 who are delinquent, neglected, or abused.

Probate Judges are elected on a non-partisan ballot for six-year terms, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets the salaries of Probate Judges, which may be supplemented by county government.

Court Activity - Probate Division

In 1987, 63,984 new cases were filed in Probate Court, exclusive of juvenile matters. This represents an increase of 357cases from the 63,627 new cases filed the previous year. Supervised and independent estates, guardianships, conservatorships, mentally ill petitions, and adoptions constitute most of the new probate cases (see Figure 4.1). While total filings were relatively stable between 1986 and 1987 there was considerable fluctuation by case type. There were decreases in cases involving escheated property

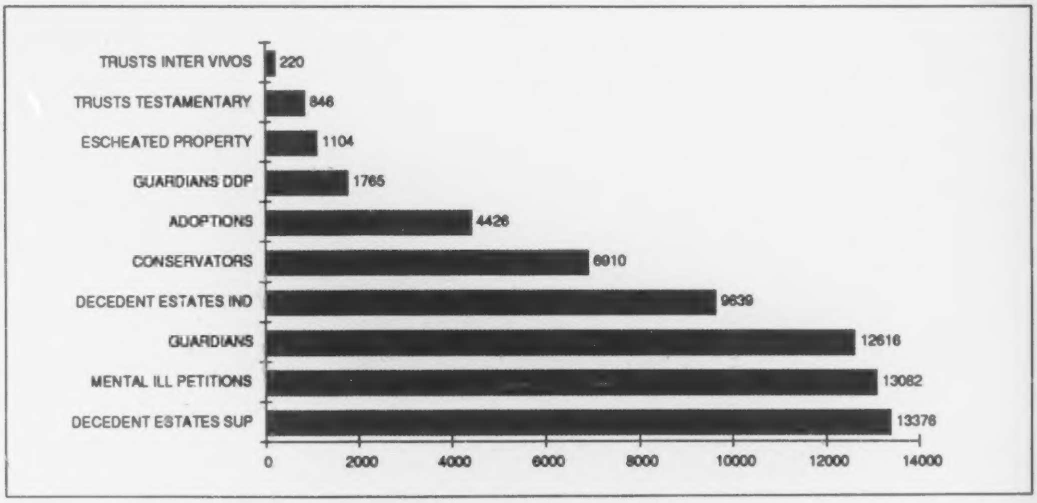


FIGURE 4.1: PROBATE COURT FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

(-11.3%), guardians of developmentally disabled persons (-15.5%), conservators (-10.1%), mentally ill petitions (-7.2%), and supervised decedent estates (-2.7%). Cases involving inter vivos trusts grew from 82 in 1986 to 220 in 1987 for an increase of 268.3%. Increases were also reported for cases involving testamentary trusts (+13.7%), adoptions (+7.6%) independent decedent estates (+17.2%), and guardians (+8.8%).

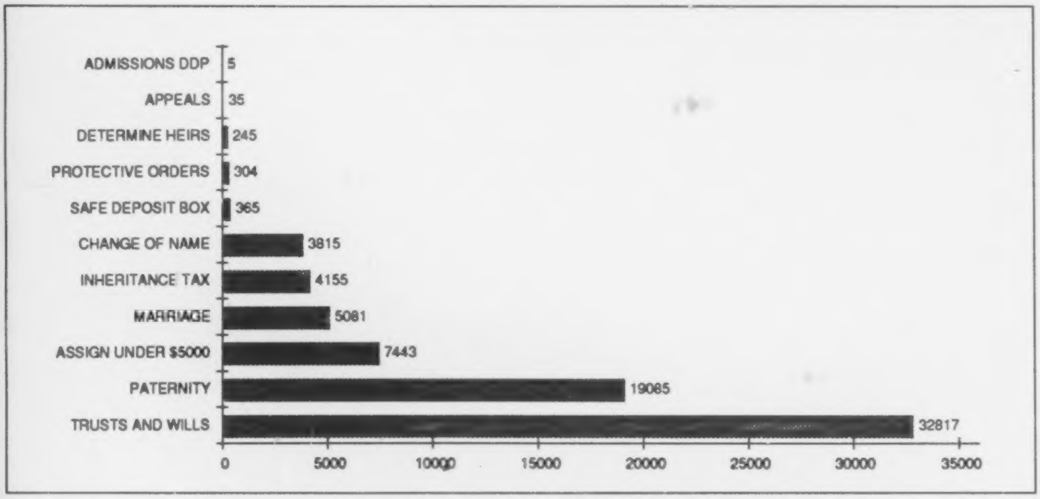


FIGURE 4.2: PROBATE COURT NON-CASELOAD ACTIVITIES, 1987

In addition to new cases the probate courts reported 73,350 other activities, an increase of 3.6% from 1986 (see Figure 4.2). Trust registration and wills for safekeeping (32,817), assignments of property under $5,000 (7,443), and acknowledgments of paternity (19,085) formed the largest groups of activities.

Table 4.1: Average Number of Filings per Probate Judge by Region, 1987

Region	Filed 1987	Judges	Average per Judge
Region I	37,905	24	1,579.4
Region II	13,920	28	497.1
Region III	7,519	25	300.8
Region IV	4,640	30	154.7
Statewide Total	63,984	107	598.0

The average number of new cases filed per Probate Judge in 1987 was 598 and the average number of reported activities per judge was 686 (exclusive of juvenile caseload). Table 4.1 displays the average number of filings per judge for each region in Michigan (see Table 4.5 for individual court information). There has been a gradual increase in Probate Court filings over the last several years (see Figure 4.3). The five year history of Probate Court filings by region is displayed in Table 4.2 (see Table 4.6 for individual court trends). Detailed caseload and activity data for Probate Courts statewide are displayed in Table 4.7.

Table 4.2: Trends in Probate Court Filings by Region

Court	Filed 1983	Filed 1984	Filed 1985	Filed 1986	Filed 1987
Region I	24,963	36,328	38,881	38,013	37,905
Region II	11,795	12,775	13,085	13,700	13,920
Region III	6,228	6,289	6,564	7,307	7,519
Region IV	4,158	4,245	4,377	4,607	4,640
Statewide Total	47,144	59,637	62,907	63,627	63,984

The averages for new filings per judge do not reflect the impact of the temporary assignment of judges to a court or the temporary assignment of a court's judge(s) to another court. Further, the averages do not reflect the impact of varying administrative workload requirements, including such matters as supervision of multi-site offices, and travel to multiple court locations. Therefore, great care should be exercised in the use or analysis of these averages.

At the end of 1987 there were 204,963 cases pending in Probate Court (see Table 4.3 and Figure 4.4). Of the pending cases, 30.2% involved guardians, and an additional 8.1% involved guardians of developmentally disabled persons. Supervised decedent estates comprised 21.8% of the pending cases, independent decedent estates comprised 10.6% of the cases, and conservators accounted for 19.9%. The remaining cases concerned inter vivos trusts, testamentary trusts, adoptions, and escheated property.

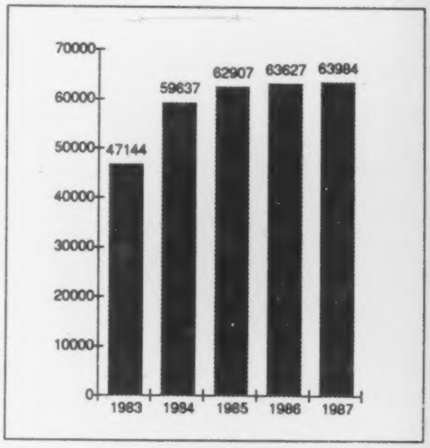


FIGURE 4.3: TRENDS IN PROBATE COURT FILINGS

Table 4.3: Probate Court Ending Pending Cases by Type, 1987

Case Type	Ending Pending	Percent of Total
Decedent Estates - Supervised	44,645	21.8
Decedent Estates - Independent	21,660	10.6
Trust - Inter Vivos	148	0.1
Trusts - Testamentary	12,458	6.1
Guardians Developmentally Disabled Persons	16,646	8.1
Guardians	61,992	30.2
Conservators	40,854	19.9
Adoptions	4,794	2.3
Escheated Property	1,766	0.9
Total	204,963	100.0

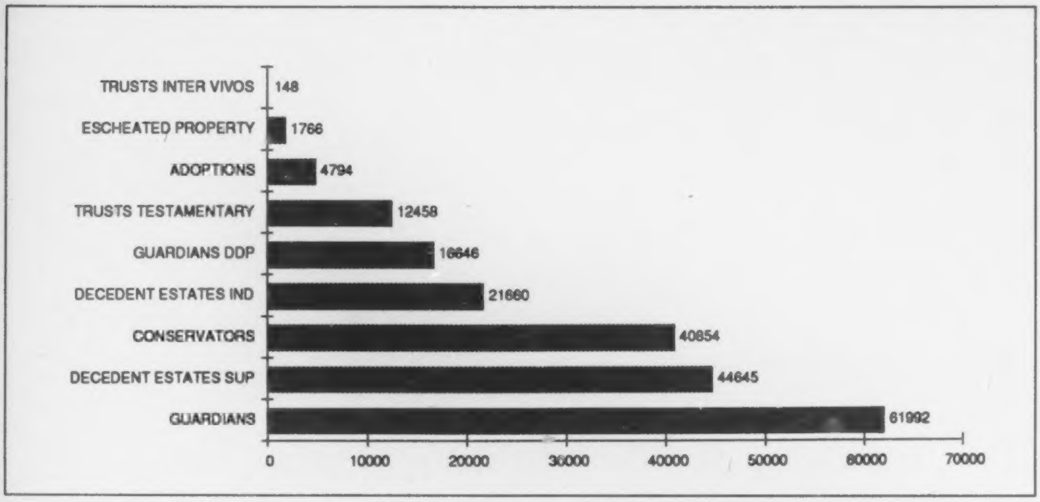


FIGURE 4.4: PROBATE COURT ENDING PENDING CASES BY TYPE, 1987

Court Activities - Juvenile Division

At the beginning of the 1987 year there were 34,110 juvenile cases under court supervision (see Table 4.4). Of these cases 35.8% were formal delinquency, 46.4% were formal neglect/abuse, 14.3% were informal delinquency, and 3.5% were informal neglect/abuse (see Figure 4.5).

During 1987 there were 38,820 new cases in the Juvenile Division of Probate Court. Of these, 42.4% were formal delinquency, 21.0% were formal neglect/abuse, 34.8% were informal delinquency, and 1.8% were informal neglect/abuse (see Figure 4.6).

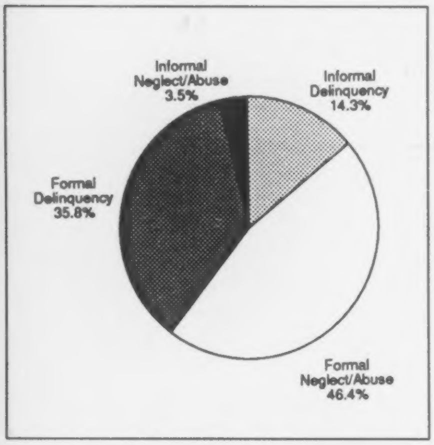


FIGURE 4.5: JUVENILE DIVISION BEGINNING CASES, 1987

Table 4.4: Juvenile Division Caseload Information, 1987

Case Type	Beginning Cases	New Cases	Cases Removed	Ending Cases
Formal Delinquency	12,223	16,470	14,729	13,964
Formal Neglect/Abuse	15,823	8,153	6,188	17,788
Informal Delinquency	4,863	13,491	11,976	6,378
Informal Neglect/Abuse	1,201	706	532	1,375
Total	34,110	38,820	33,425	39,505

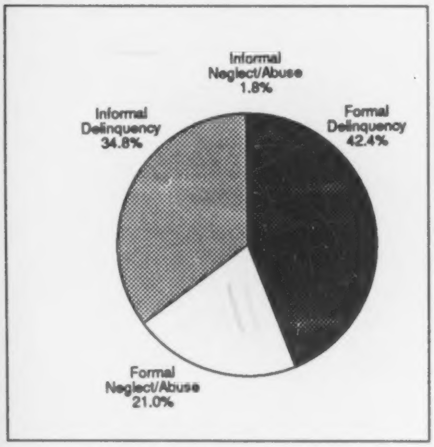


FIGURE 4.6: JUVENILE DIVISION NEW CASES, 1987

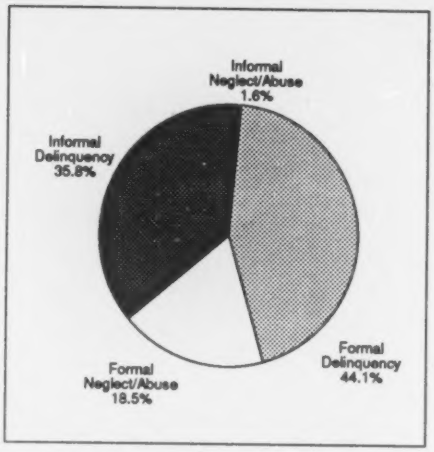


FIGURE 4.7: JUVENILE DIVISION CASES LEAVING JURISDICTION, 1987

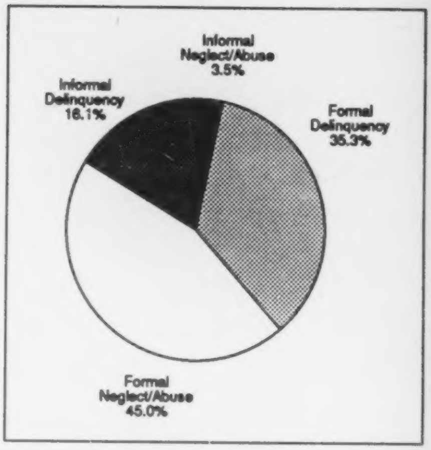


FIGURE 4.8: JUVENILE DIVISION ENDING CASES, 1987

Over thirty-three thousand cases (33,425) were disposed of in 1987. Of the cases disposed, 44.1% were formal delinquency, 18.5% were formal neglect/abuse, 35.8% were informal delinquency, and 1.6% were informal neglect/abuse (see Figure 4.7).

At the end of 1987, there were 39,505 cases under court jurisdiction. Forty-five percent (45.0%) were formal neglect/abuse, 35.3% were formal delinquency, 16.1% were informal delinquency, and 3.5% were informal neglect/abuse (see Figure 4.8).

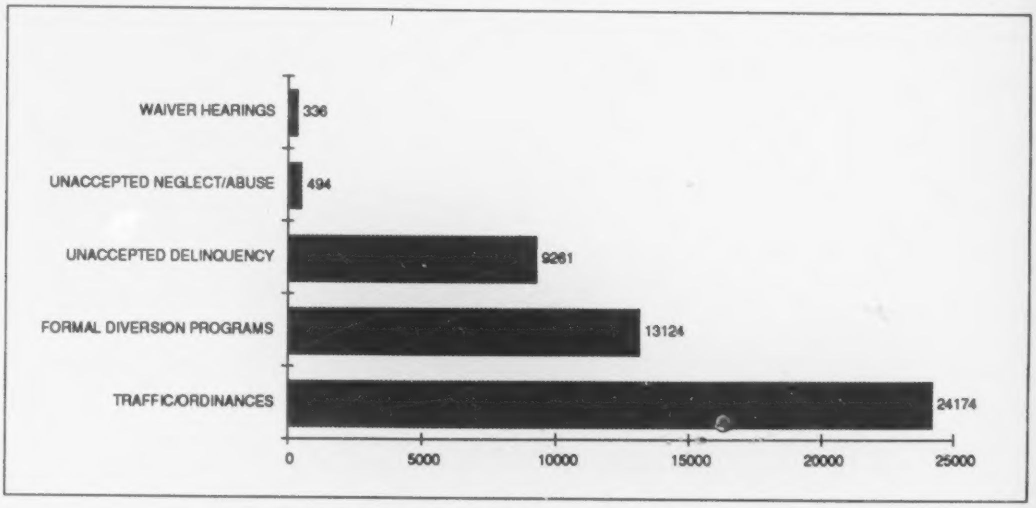


FIGURE 4.9: JUVENILE DIVISION MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES, 1987

In addition to formal and informal caseloads, Probate Courts conducted a number of juvenile case activities (see Figure 4.9). Over thirteen thousand (13,124) individuals were served through formal diversion programs. There were 24,174 traffic and ordinance hearings and 336 waiver hearings. Over nine thousand (9,261) individuals were not accepted for court services for delinquency and 494 were not accepted for court services for neglect/abuse.

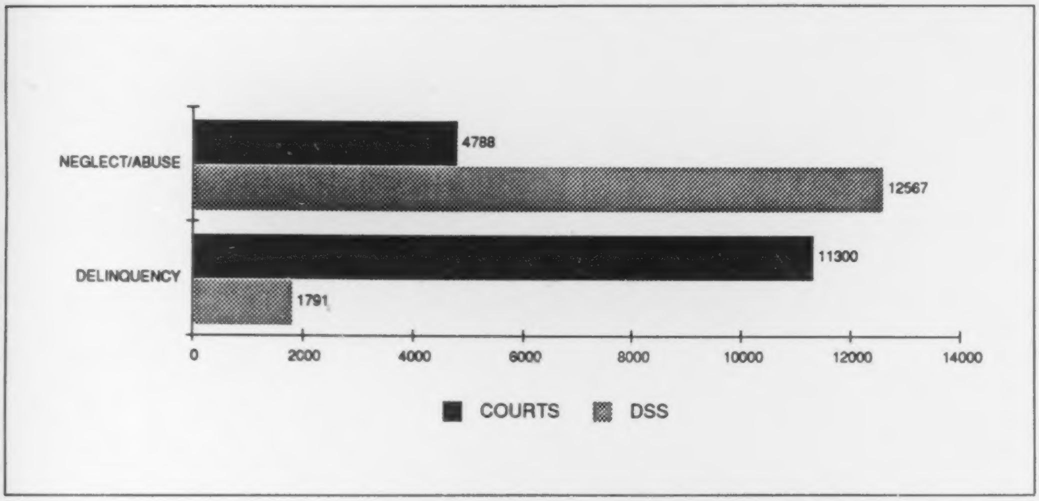


FIGURE 4.10: FORMAL DELINQUENCY AND NEGLECT / ABUSE CASES SUPERVISED BY THE COURT OR THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 1987

Of the individuals under court jurisdiction for formal services at the end of 1987, 52.8% were under court supervision and 47.2% were under Department of Social Services (DSS) supervision. Of the individuals under court supervision, 70.2% were formal delinquency cases and 29.8% were formal neglect/abuse cases while of the individuals under DSS supervision, 12.5% were formal delinquency cases and 87.5% were formal neglect/abuse cases (see Figure 4.10).

Table 4.5: Average Number of Filings per Judge by Probate Court, 1987

Court	Filed 1987	Judges	Average per Judge
Region I			
Genesee	2,368	3	789.3
Macomb	4,543	3	1,514.3
Monroe	622	2	311.0
Oakland	10,387	4	2,596.8
St. Clair	1,014	2	507.0
Washtenaw	1,331	2	665.5
Wayne	17,640	8	2,205.0
Region I Total	37,905	24	1,579.4
Region II			
Allegan	466	1	466.0
Barry	282	1	282.0
Berrien	922	2	461.0
Branch	291	1	291.0
Calhoun	1,141	2	570.5
Cass	217	1	217.0
Eaton	328	1	328.0
Hillsdale	259	1	259.0
Ingham	1,450	2	725.0
Jackson	835	2	417.5
Kalamazoo	1,038	3	346.0
Kent	3,069	4	767.3
Lenawee	527	1	527.0
Livingston	648	1	648.0
Muskegon	899	2	449.5
Ottawa	578	1	578.0
St. Joseph	328	1	328.0
Van Buren	642	1	642.0
Region II Total	13,920	28	497.1
Region III			
Alcona	71	1*	71.0
Arenac	107	1*	107.0
Bay	550	1	550.0
Clare/Gladwin	290	1	290.0
Clinton	256	1	256.0
Gratiot	275	1	275.0
Huron	336	1	336.0
Ionia	440	1	440.0
Iosco	218	1	218.0
Isabella	210	1	210.0
Lake	108	1*	108.0
Lapeer	540	1	540.0
Mason	152	1	152.0
Mecosta/Osceola	316	1	316.0

Table 4.5: Average Number of Filings per Judge by Probate Court, 1987

Court	Filed 1987	Judges	Average per Judge
Region III Continued			
Midland	411	1	411.0
Montcalm	355	1	355.0
Newaygo	292	1	292.0
Oceana	182	1	182.0
Ogemaw	169	1	169.0
Oscoda	49	1*	49.0
Saginaw	1,196	2	598.0
Sanilac	322	1	322.0
Shiawassee	427	1	427.0
Tuscola	247	1	247.0
Region III Total	7,519	25	300.8
Region IV			
Alger/Schoolcraft	127	1	127.0
Alpena	182	1	182.0
Antrim	211	1	211.0
Baraga	38	1*	38.0
Benzie	107	1*	107.0
Charlevoix/Emmet	510	1	510.0
Cheboygan	180	1	180.0
Chippewa	169	1	169.0
Crawford	63	1*	63.0
Delta	189	1	189.0
Dickinson	132	1	132.0
Gogebic	141	1	141.0
Grand Traverse	407	1	407.0
Houghton	176	1	176.0
Iron	74	1*	74.0
Kalkaska	120	1*	120.0
Keweenaw	2	1*	2.0
Leelanau	106	1*	106.0
Luce	68	1*	68.0
Mackinac	82	1*	82.0
Manistee	262	1	262.0
Marquette	257	1	257.0
Menominee	148	1	148.0
Missaukee	72	1*	72.0
Montmorency	65	1*	65.0
Ontonagon	53	1*	53.0
Otsego	152	1	152.0
Presque Isle	122	1*	122.0
Roscommon	147	1	147.0
Wexford	278	1	278.0
Region IV Total	4,640	30	154.7
Statewide Total	63,984	107	598.0

* Part-Time Probate Judges

Table 4.6: Trends in Probate Court Filings

Court	Filed 1983	Filed 1984	Filed 1985	Filed 1986	Filed 1987
Region I					
Genesee	2,739	2,872	2,000	2,197	2,368
Macomb	3,552	3,925	4,228	4,399	4,543
Monroe	639	525	521	619	622
Oakland	6,175	6,094	6,682	7,085	10,387
St. Clair	870	899	802	1,042	1,014
Washtenaw	1,341	1,309	1,042	1,113	1,331
Wayne	9,647	20,704	23,606	21,558	17,640
Region I Total	24,963	36,328	38,881	38,013	37,905
Region II					
Allegan	537	408	428	436	466
Barry	211	217	196	249	282
Berrien	797	712	858	868	922
Branch	230	245	248	207	291
Calhoun	1,077	974	1,108	1,214	1,141
Cass	205	244	260	275	217
Eaton	313	349	313	331	328
Hillsdale	240	242	190	202	259
Ingham	1,470	1,479	1,499	1,527	1,450
Jackson	402	650	743	838	835
Kalamazoo	986	1,147	995	1,057	1,038
Kent	2,517	2,836	2,923	2,963	3,069
Lenawee	565	530	482	622	527
Livingston	583	436	575	730	648
Muskegon	863	945	821	798	899
Ottawa	.	486	544	495	578
St. Joseph	252	280	254	222	328
Van Buren	547	595	648	666	642
Region II Total	11,975	12,775	13,085	13,700	13,920
Region III					
Alcona	61	74	85	88	71
Arenac	87	97	102	79	107
Bay	712	600	551	621	550
Clare/Gladwin	275	283	250	264	290
Clinton	256	239	224	280	256
Gratiot	228	240	226	240	275
Huron	301	296	378	315	336
Ionia	283	266	313	370	440
Iosco	132	163	138	234	218
Isabella	77	226	268	291	210
Lake	96	60	64	81	108
Lapeer	304	441	428	508	540
Mason	163	153	168	101	152
Mecosta/Osceola	299	272	303	333	316

Table 4.6: Trends in Probate Court Filings, Continued

Court	Filed 1983	Filed 1984	Filed 1985	Filed 1986	Filed 1987
Region III Continued					
Midland	557	350	359	506	411
Montcalm	212	218	258	277	355
Newaygo	41	183	220	234	292
Oceana	136	159	132	138	182
Ogemaw	116	90	170	184	169
Oscoda	54	33	28	39	49
Saginaw	922	1,048	1,033	1,138	1,196
Sanilac	268	224	260	297	322
Shiawassee	340	321	343	409	427
Tuscola	308	253	263	280	247
Region III Total	6,228	6,289	6,564	7,307	7,519
Region IV					
Alger/Schoolcraft	125	140	123	105	127
Alpena	171	199	235	253	182
Antrim	91	156	151	150	211
Baraga	47	42	51	39	38
Benzie	67	104	84	82	107
Charlevoix/Emmet	355	368	364	530	510
Cheboygan	194	166	282	229	180
Chippewa	201	150	168	206	169
Crawford	58	82	55	59	63
Delta	213	197	169	169	189
Dickinson	69	117	98	133	132
Gogebic	158	125	122	134	141
Grand Traverse	284	298	317	338	407
Houghton	195	158	205	187	176
Iron	74	89	87	55	74
Kalkaska	99	79	89	85	120
Keweenaw	3	6	6	5	2
Leelanau	95	101	112	107	106
Luce	91	56	83	100	68
Mackinac	113	81	104	136	82
Manistee	237	328	245	341	262
Marquette	504	340	314	263	257
Menominee	83	130	102	111	148
Missaukee	43	56	92	73	72
Montmorency	10	16	58	49	65
Ontonagon	64	73	64	62	53
Otsego	90	107	186	135	152
Presque Isle	92	130	81	106	122
Roscommon	106	108	115	138	147
Wexford	226	243	215	227	278
Region IV Total	4,158	4,245	4,377	4,607	4,640
Statewide Total	47,144	59,637	62,907	63,627	63,984

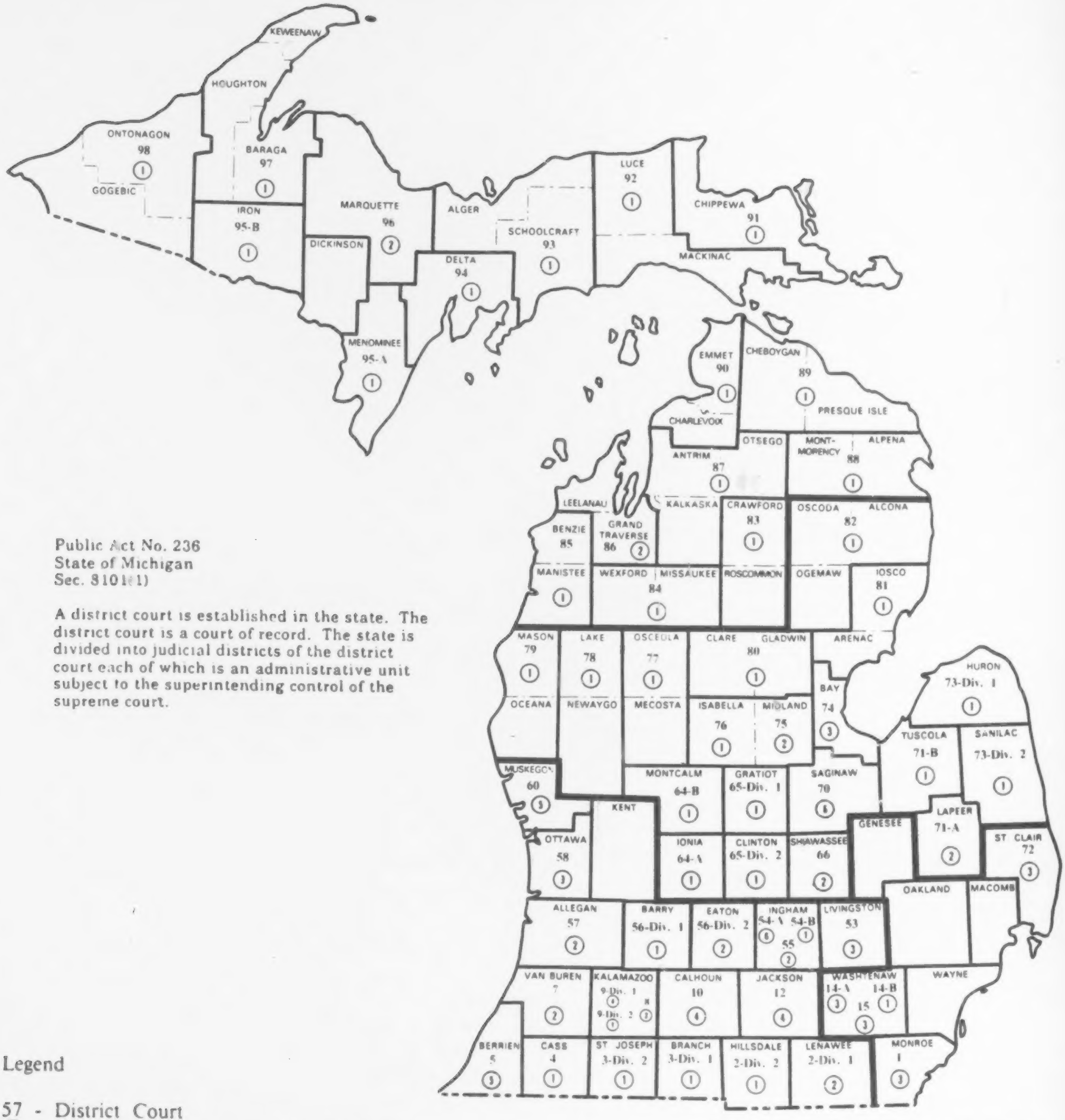
Table 4.7: Probate Court Summary Report

Case Type	Cases Pending at Beginning	Cases Filed	Cases Closed	Cases Pending at End
Decedent Estates-Supervised	45,102	13,376	13,833	44,645
Decedent Estates-Independent	19,564	9,639	7,543	21,660
Trusts-Inter vivos	88	220	160	148
Trusts-Testamentary	12,697	846	1,085	12,458
Guardians-Developmentally Disabled Persons	15,750	1,765	869	16,646
Guardians	58,509	12,616	9,133	61,992
Conservators	39,938	6,910	5,994	40,854
Adoptions	4,613	4,426	4,245	4,794
Escheated Property	1,821	1,104	1,159	1,766
Totals	198,082	50,902	44,021	204,963
Assignments of Property under $5,000	n/a	7,443	n/a	n/a
Mentally Ill Petitions	n/a	13,082	n/a	n/a
Judicial and Administrative Admissions-DDP	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Protective Orders	n/a	304	n/a	n/a
Change of Name	n/a	3,815	n/a	n/a
Marriage-Secret	n/a	119	n/a	n/a
Marriage-Ceremonies	n/a	731	n/a	n/a
Marriage-3 Day Waivers	n/a	4,231	n/a	n/a
Acknowledgments of Paternity	n/a	19,085	n/a	n/a
Safe Deposit Box	n/a	365	n/a	n/a
Trust Registration and Wills for Safekeeping	n/a	32,817	n/a	n/a
Appeals to Probate Court	n/a	35	n/a	n/a
Inheritance Tax	n/a	4,155	n/a	n/a
Determination of Heirs	n/a	245	n/a	n/a
Totals	n/a	86,432	n/a	n/a

n/a: not applicable

District Court

DISTRICT COURT


KEWEENAW
HOUGHTON
ONTONAGON 98 ①
GOGEBIC
BARAGA 97 ①
IRON 95-B ①
MARQUETTE 96 ②
DICKINSON
ALGER
SCHOOLCRAFT 93 ①
LUCE 92 ①
CHIPPEWA 91 ①
MACKINAC
DELTA 94 ①
MENOMINEE 95-A ①
EMMET 90 ①
CHEBOYGAN 89 ①
PRESQUE ISLE
CHARLEVOIX
ANTRIM 87 ①
OTSEGO
MONT-MORENCY 88 ①
ALPENA
LEELANAU
BENZIE 85
GRAND TRAVERSE 86 ②
KALKASKA
CRAWFORD 83 ①
OSCODA 82 ①
ALCONA
MANISTEE ①
WEXFORD 84 ①
MISSAUKEE
ROSCOMMON
OGEMAW
IOSCO 81 ①
MASON 79 ①
LAKE 78 ①
OSCEOLA 77 ①
CLARE 80 ①
GLADWIN
ARENAC
OCEANA
NEWAYGO
MECOSTA
ISABELLA 76 ①
MIDLAND 75 ②
BAY 74 ③
HURON 73-Div. 1 ①
MUSKEGON 60 ⑤
MONTCALM 64-B ①
GRATIOT 65-Div. 1 ①
SAGINAW 70 ⑥
TUSCOLA 71-B ①
SANILAC 73-Div. 2 ①
KENT
OTTAWA 58 ③
IONIA 64-A ①
CLINTON 65-Div. 2 ①
SHIAWASSEE 66 ②
GENESEE
LAPEER 71-A ②
ST CLAIR 72 ③
OAKLAND
MACOMB
ALLEGAN 57 ②
BARRY 56-Div. 1 ①
EATON 56-Div. 2 ②
INGHAM 54-A ⑥ 54-B ① 55 ②
LIVINGSTON 53 ③
VAN BUREN 7 ②
KALAMAZOO 9-Div. 1 ④ 8 ③ 9-Div. 2 ①
CALHOUN 10 ④
JACKSON 12 ④
WASHTENAW 14-A ③ 14-B ① 15 ③
WAYNE
BERRIEN 5 ⑤
CASS 4 ①
ST JOSEPH 3-Div. 2 ①
BRANCH 3-Div. 1 ①
HILLSDALE 2-Div. 2 ①
LENAWEE 2-Div. 1 ②
MONROE 1 ③

Public Act No. 236
State of Michigan
Sec. 8101(1)

A district court is established in the state. The district court is a court of record. The state is divided into judicial districts of the district court each of which is an administrative unit subject to the superintending control of the supreme court.

Legend

57 - District Court
③ - Number District Court Judgeships

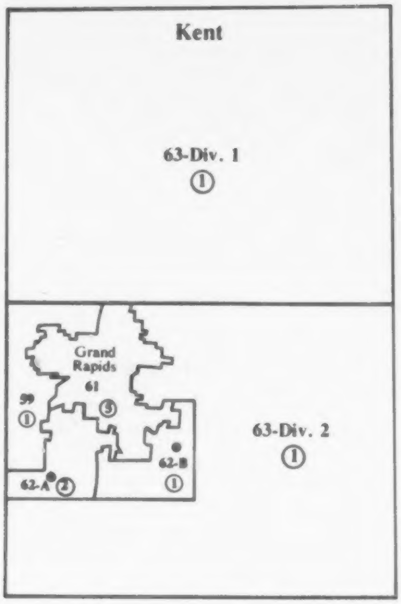
UNNUMBERED COUNTIES ARE SHOWN
IN DETAIL ON REVERSE SIDE

Number of District Courts	Judgeships
100	247

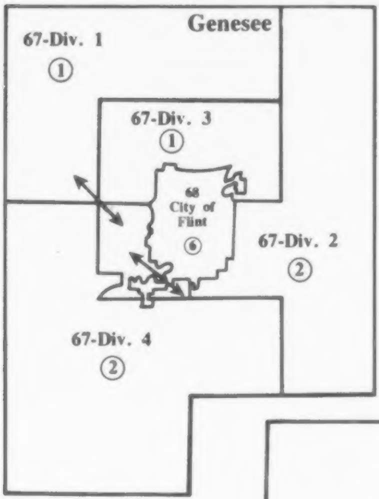
41

December. 1987

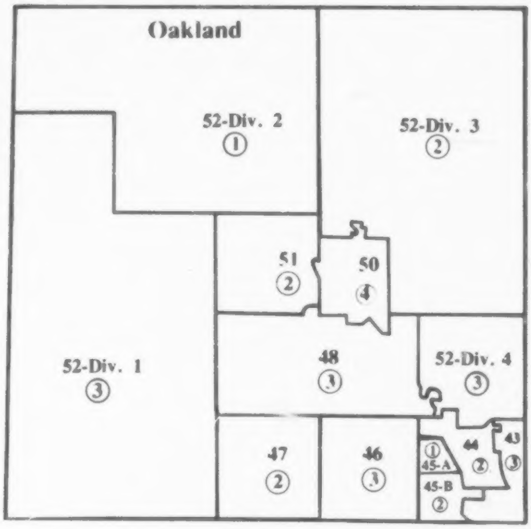
DISTRICT COURT


Kent
63-Div. 1 ①
Grand Rapids
61 ⑤
59 ①
62-A ②
62-B ①
63-Div. 2 ①

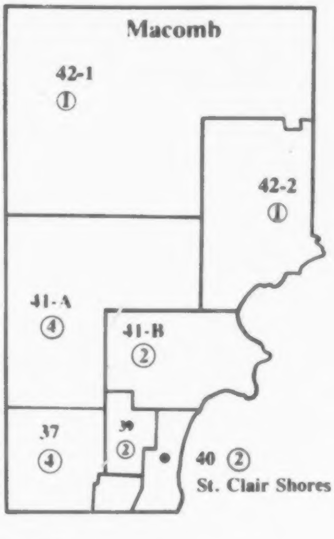
5 Courts
11 Judges


Genesee
67-Div. 1 ①
67-Div. 3 ①
68 City of Flint ⑥
67-Div. 2 ②
67-Div. 4 ②

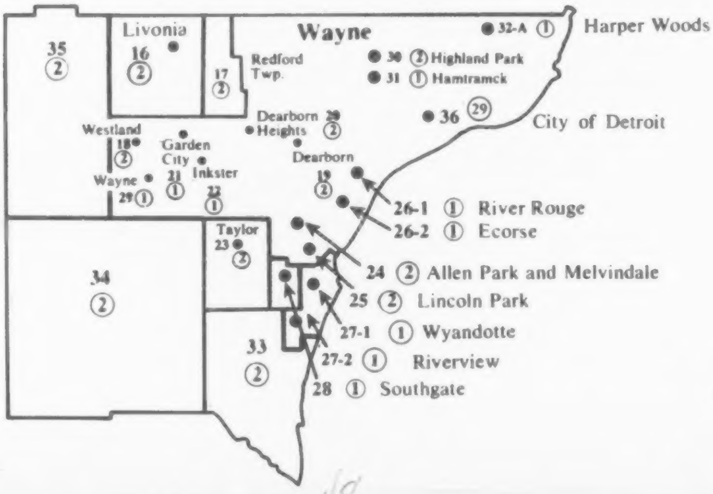
2 Courts
12 Judges


Oakland
52-Div. 2 ①
52-Div. 3 ②
51 ②
50 ④
52-Div. 1 ③
48 ③
52-Div. 4 ③
47 ②
46 ③
① 45-A
45-B ②
44 ②
43 ③

10 Courts
31 Judges


Macomb
42-1 ①
42-2 ①
41-A ④
41-B ②
37 ④
39 ②
40 ②
St. Clair Shores

6 Court
16 Judge


Wayne
Livonia
16 ②
35 ②
17 ②
Redford Twp.
32-A ① Harper Woods
30 ② Highland Park
31 ① Hamtramck
36 ㉙ City of Detroit
Dearborn Heights 20 ②
Dearborn
19 ②
Westland 18 ②
Garden City 21 ①
Inkster 22 ①
Wayne 29 ①
26-1 ① River Rouge
26-2 ① Ecorse
Taylor 23 ②
24 ② Allen Park and Melvindale
25 ② Lincoln Park
27-1 ① Wyandotte
27-2 ① Riverview
28 ① Southgate
34 ②
33 ②

21 Courts
63 Judges

December, 1987

DISTRICT COURT

The District Court, with which more citizens have contact than any other court, has exclusive jurisdiction of all civil litigation up to $10,000; all misdemeanors where potential punishment does not exceed one year in jail; and the arraignment, setting and acceptance of bail, and conduct of preliminary examinations in felony cases. The District Court also handles garnishments as well as eviction proceedings, land contract and mortgage foreclosures, and other proceedings. Juries in District Court are limited to six members. In civil cases five of six jurors must agree on a verdict while in criminal cases verdicts must be unanimous.

A small claims division for civil cases up to $1,500 is provided for in District Court. In these cases litigants agree to waive their right to a jury trial, rules of evidence, representation by a lawyer, and the right to appeal from the District Judge's decision. Small claims cases may also be heard by Attorney Magistrates whose decisions become final if not appealed to a District Judge within seven days. If either party objects, the case will be heard by the general division of the District Court. Traffic bureaus may also be set up in District Court to handle traffic offenses.

In single-judge districts the judge may appoint one magistrate for each county in the district. The magistrate may be a lawyer. Powers of magistrates are limited to setting bail and accepting bond in criminal matters; they may accept guilty pleas and may sentence for traffic, motor carrier, and snowmobile violations and dog, game, and boat law violations. The magistrate may issue arrest warrants upon the authorization of the prosecutor or municipal attorney and may issue search warrants when authorized by the District Judge. In addition, attorney magistrates may hear small claims cases.

District Court, established by the Legislature in 1968, became a court of record in 1973 and a verbatim record is kept of court proceedings. All appeals from District Court decisions are made to Circuit Court.

District Judges are elected on non-partisan ballots for terms of six years. Qualifications are the same as for other judges. The Legislature sets their salaries, which may be supplemented by local governments.

District Court Activities

In 1987, there were 2,921,992 new cases filed in District Courts. This represents an increase of 157,974 filings or 5.7% from the previous year. Seventy-seven percent (77.0%) of the 1987 filings were traffic related, 13.1% concerned civil issues, and 9.8% concerned criminal issues (see Figure 5.1).

Criminal filings increased by 17,405 or 6.4% between 1986 and 1987. Of the 287,520 criminal cases filed in 1987, 77.3% were misdemeanor offenses and 22.7% were felony offenses (see Figure 5.2). Between 1986 and 1987, criminal felony cases increased by 6.5% (3,965) and criminal misdemeanor cases increased by 6.4% (13,440).

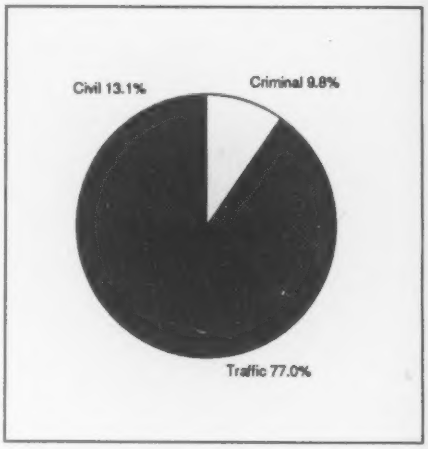


FIGURE 5.1: DISTRICT COURT FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

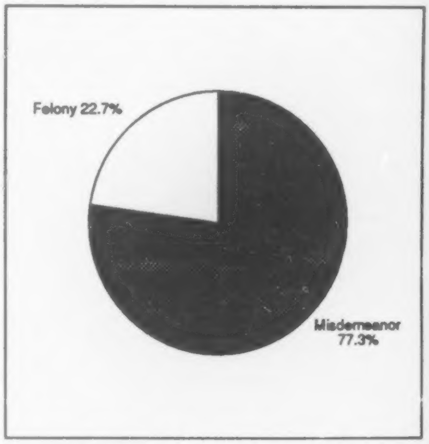


FIGURE 5.2: DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

Traffic filings increased by 123,373 or 5.8% between 1986 and 1987. Of the 2,251,204 traffic cases in 1987, 72.2% were civil infractions and 27.8% were misdemeanors (see Figure 5.3). Traffic misdemeanor cases increased by 7.4% (43,176) while traffic civil cases increased by 5.2% (80,197).

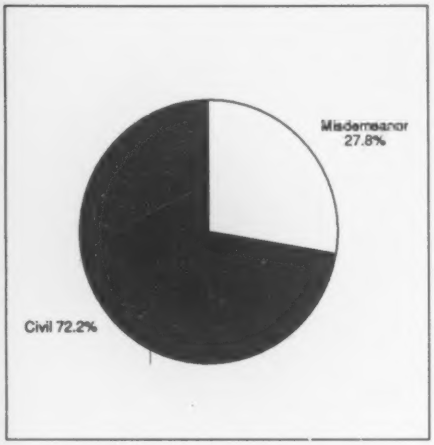


FIGURE 5.3: DISTRICT COURT TRAFFIC FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

Civil filings increased 17,196, from 366,072 in 1986 to 383,268 in 1987, for an increase of 4.7%. Thirty-nine percent (39.4%) of the civil filings were general civil cases, 31.9% were summary proceedings cases, and 28.7% were small claims cases (see Figure 5.4). Civil matters increased by 4.6% (6,659), small clams increased by 2.6% (2,793), and summary proceedings increased by 6.8% (7,744) from the previous year.

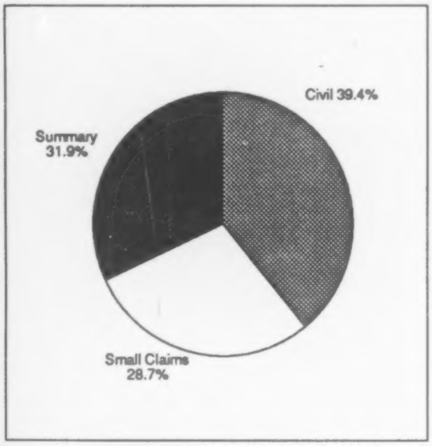


FIGURE 5.4: DISTRICT COURT CIVIL FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

In 1987 an average of 11,830 new cases per judge were filed in District Court. This represents an increase of 640 from 1986 when the average filings per judge was 11,190. Table 5.1 displays the average number of filings per District Judge for 1987 by region (see Table 5.4 for individual court information).

Table 5.1: Average Number of Filings per District Judge by Region, 1987

Region	Filed 1987	Number of Judges	Average per Judge
Region I	1,712,007	135	12,681.5
Region II	728,085	64	11,376.3
Region III	318,423	29	10,980.1
Region IV	163,477	19	8,604.1
Statewide Total	2,921,992	247	11,829.9

The averages for new filings per judge do not reflect the impact of the temporary assignments of a court's judge(s) to another court. Further, the averages do not reflect the impact of varying administrative workload requirements, including such matters as supervision of multi-site offices, and travel to multiple court locations. Therefore, great care should be exercised in the use or analysis of these averages.

Between 1983 and 1987 the number of cases filed in District Court increased from 2,285,658 to 2,921,992 for an increase of 636,334 cases or 27.8% (see Figure 5.5). The number of cases filed by region for the years 1983 through 1987 are displayed in Table 5.2 (see Table 5.5 for individual court information).

Table 5.2: Trends in District Court Filings by Region

Court	Filed 1983	Filed 1984	Filed 1985	Filed 1986	Filed 1987
Region I	1,255,522	1,184,645	1,317,709	1,592,107	1,712,007
Region II	620,618	603,150	643,029	709,341	728,085
Region III	267,343	253,342	273,700	306,991	318,423
Region IV	142,175	138,700	138,158	155,579	163,477
Statewide Total	2,285,658	2,179,837	2,372,596	2,764,018	2,921,992

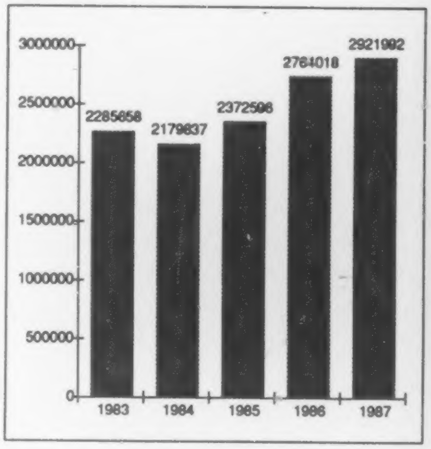


FIGURE 5.5: TRENDS IN DISTRICT COURT FILINGS

At the end of 1987 there were 961,886 cases pending in District Court (see Table 5.3). Of these, 73.1% (703,214) were traffic cases, 15.2% (146,592) were criminal cases, and 11.7% (112,080) were civil cases (see Figure 5.6). Detailed District Court caseload information is presented in Table 5.6.

Table 5.3: District Court Ending Pending Cases, 1987

Case Type	Ending Pending	Percent Within Case Type	Percent of Total
Criminal			
Felony	28,368	19.4	2.9
Misdemeanor	118,224	80.6	12.3
Total Criminal	146,592	100.0	15.2
Traffic	703,214	100.0	73.1
Civil			
Civil	66,662	59.5	6.9
Small Claims	32,118	28.7	3.3
Summary Proceedings	13,300	11.9	1.4
Total Civil	112,080	100.0	11.7
Grand Total	961,886	100.0	100.0

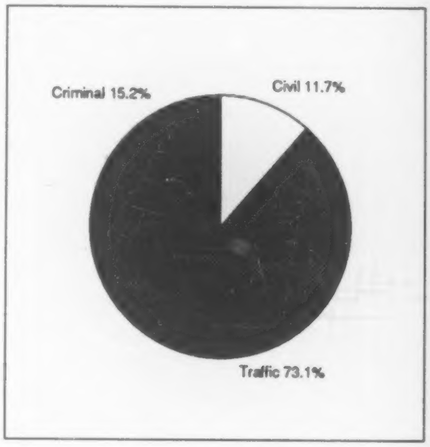


FIGURE 5.6: DISTRICT COURT ENDING PENDING BY TYPE, 1987

Table 5.4: Average Number of Filings per Judge by District Court, 1987

Court	District	Filed 1987	Number of Judges	Average per Judge
Region I				
Monroe Co	1	33,327	3	11,109.0
Washtenaw Co	14A	37,679	3	12,559.7
Ypsilanti Twn	14B	13,441	1	13,441.0
Ann Arbor	15	37,384	3	12,461.3
Livonia	16	31,867	2	15,933.5
Redford Twn	17	12,441	2	6,220.5
Westland	18	22,615	2	11,307.5
Dearborn	19	37,940	2	18,970.0
Dearborn Heights	20	22,766	2	11,383.0
Garden City	21	5,629	1	5,629.0
Inkster	22	10,599	1	10,599.0
Taylor	23	18,736	2	9,368.0
Allen Park/Melvindale	24	23,128	2	11,564.0
Lincoln Park	25	15,947	2	7,973.5
River Rouge	26-1	4,330	1	4,330.0
Ecorse	26-2	2,684	1	2,684.0
Court Summary	26	7,014	2	3.507.0
Wyandotte	27-1	10,469	1	10,469.0
Riverview	27-2	2,266	1	2,266.0
Court Summary	27	12,735	2	6,367.5
Southgate	28	9,455	1	9,455.0
Wayne (city)	29	7,877	1	7,877.0
Highland Park	30	9,954	2	4,977.0
Hamtramck	31	12,792	1	12,792.0
Harper Woods	32A	8,021	1	8,021.0
Woodhaven	33	27,664	2	13,832.0
Romulus	34	34,328	2	17,164.0
Plymouth	35	30,666	2	15,333.0
Detroit	36	522,215	29	18,007.4
Warren/Centerline	37	49,169	4	12,292.2
Roseville/Fraser	39	25,488	2	12,744.0
St Clair Shores	40	13,064	2	6,532.0
Sterling Hts/Shelby Twn	41A	38,594	4	9,648.5
Mt Clemens/Clinton Twn	41B	26,285	2	13,142.5
Macomb Co-Romeo	42-1	7,889	1	7,889.0
Macomb Co-New Baltimore	42-2	12,450	1	12,450.0
Court Summary	42	20,339	2	10,169.5
Ferndale/Hazel Pk/Madison	43	34,013	3	11,337.7
Royal Oak	44	20,875	2	10,437.5
Berkley	45A	5,574	1	5,574.0
Oak Park	45B	22,614	2	11,307.0
Southfield	46	42,945	3	14,315.0
Farmington/Farmington Hills	47	30,434	2	15,217.0
Bloomfield Twn	48	51,305	3	17,101.7
Pontiac	50	25,454	4	6,363.5
Waterford Twn	51	18,083	2	9,041.5
Oakland Co-Walled Lake	52-1	36,942	3	12,314.0
Oakland Co-Clarkston	52-2	17,560	1	17,560.0
Oakland Co-Rochester	52-3	36,486	2	18,243.0
Oakland Co-Troy	52-4	26,313	3	8,771.0
Court Summary	52	117,301	9	13,033.4

Table 5.4: Average Number of Filings per Judge by District Court, 1987

Court	District	Filed 1987	Number of Judges	Average per Judge
Region I Continued				
Genesee Co	67	65,916	6	10,986.0
Flint	68	66,671	6	11,111.8
St Clair Co	72	31,663	3	10,554.3
Region I Total		1,712,007	135	12,681.5
Region II				
Lenawee Co	2-1	23,087	2	11,543.5
Hillsdale Co	2-2	9,635	1	9,635.0
Court Summary	2	32,722	3	10,907.3
Branch Co	3-1	12,682	1	12,682.0
St Joseph Co	3-2	12,393	1	12,393.0
Court Summary	3	25,075	2	12,537.5
Cass Co	4	10,308	1	10,308.0
St Joseph/Niles	5	51,955	5	10,391.0
Van Buren Co	7	22,544	2	11,272.0
Kalamazoo Co	8	23,630	2	11,815.0
Kalamazoo	9-1	48,691	4	12,172.7
Portage	9-2	9,180	1	9,180.0
Court Summary	9	57,871	5	11,574.2
Calhoun Co	10	48,958	4	12,239.5
Jackson Co	12	37,844	4	9,461.0
Livingston Co	53	29,134	3	9,711.3
Lansing	54A	58,669	6	9,778.2
East Lansing	54B	22,621	1	22,621.0
Ingham Co	55	24,090	2	12,045.0
Barry Co	56-1	9,265	1	9,265.0
Eaton Co	56-2	25,465	2	12,732.5
Court Summary	56	34,730	3	11,576.7
Allegan Co	57	26,929	2	13,464.5
Ottawa Co	58	38,624	3	12,874.7
Grandville/Walker	59	10,903	1	10,903.0
Muskegon Co	60	38,018	5	7,603.6
Grand Rapids	61	59,522	5	11,904.4
Wyoming	62A	21,810	2	10,905.0
Kentwood	62B	10,824	1	10,824.0
Kent Co	63	41,304	2	20,652.0
Region II Total		728,085	64	11,376.3
Region III				
Ionia Co	64A	20,309	1	20,309.0
Montcalm	64B	14,436	1	14,436.0
Gratiot	65-1	13,699	1	13,699.0
Clinton Co	65-2	13,092	1	13,092.0
Court Summary	65	26,791	2	13,395.5
Shiawassee Co	66	20,217	2	10,108.5
Saginaw Co	70	64,119	6	10,686.5
Lapeer Co	71A	17,858	2	8,929.0
Tuscola Co	71B	12,432	1	12,432.0

Table 5.4: Average Number of Filings per Judge by District Court, 1987

Court	District	Filed 1987	Number of Judges	Average per Judge
Region III Continued				
Huron Co	73-1	8,393	1	8,393.0
Sanilac Co	73-2	9,753	1	9,753.0
Court Summary	73	18,146	2	9,073.0
Bay Co	74	27,764	3	9,254.7
Midland Co	75	11,677	2	5,838.5
Isabella Co	76	11,384	1	11,384.0
Osceola Co/Mecosta Co	77	16,368	1	16,368.0
Lake Co/Newago Co	78	11,151	1	11,151.0
Mason Co/Oceana Co	79	11,419	1	11,419.0
Clare Co/Gladwin Co	80	10,450	1	10,450.0
Arenac Co/Iosco Co	81	13,294	1	13,294.0
Alcona/Ogemaw/Oscoda Co	82	10,608	1	10,608.0
Region III Total		318,423	29	10,980.1
Region IV				
Crawford Co/Roscommon Co	83	11,176	1	11,176.0
Missaukee Co/Wexford Co	84	12,620	1	12,620.0
Benzie Co/Manistee Co	85	6,824	1	6,824.0
Gd Traverse/Leelanau Co	86	18,310	2	9,155.0
Antrim/Kalkaska/Otsego Co	87	14,950	1	14,950.0
Alpena Co/Montmorency Co	88	8,699	1	8,699.0
Cheboygan/Presque Isle Co	89	9,888	1	9,888.0
Charlevoix Co/Emmet Co	90	12,368	1	12,368.0
Chippewa Co	91	6,690	1	6,690.0
Luce Co/Mackinac Co	92	9,375	1	9,375.0
Alger Co/Schoolcraft Co	93	5,672	1	5,672.0
Delta Co	94	7,539	1	7,539.0
Menominee Co	95A	4,791	1	4,791.0
Dickinson Co/Iron Co	95B	7,816	1	7,816.0
Marquette Co	96	14,697	2	7,348.5
Baraga/Houghton/Keweenaw	97	7,455	1	7,455.0
Gogebic Co/Ontonagon Co	98	4,607	1	4,607.0
Region IV Total		163,477	19	8,604.1
Statewide Total		2,921,992	247	11,829.9

Table 5.5: Trends in District Court Filings

Court	District	Filed 1983	Filed 1984	Filed 1985	Filed 1986	Filed 1987
Region I						
Monroe Co	1	33,294	31,137	33,282	33,252	33,327
Washtenaw Co	14A	35,865	43,363	36,349	36,486	37,679
Ypsilanti Twn	14B	7,894	.	9,613	11,618	13,441
CitY of Ann Arbor	15	27,021	33,835	31,770	37,247	37,384
Livonia	16	32,343	26,383	26,942	31,110	31,867
Redford Twn	17	21,353	15,948	14,133	15,131	12,441
Westland	18	22,606	20,712	22,187	21,475	22,615
Dearborn	19	.	.	20,114	30,349	37,940
Dearborn Heights	20	19,297	16,505	18,143	19,137	22,766
Garden City	21	10,905	8,250	7,419	6,557	5,629
Inkster	22	5,715	7,718	8,129	8,971	10,599
Taylor	23	17,463	21,117	21,118	18,516	18,736
Allen Park/Melvindale	24	18,051	16,897	17,351	26,324	23,128
Lincoln Park	25	.	.	14,780	16,835	15,947
River Rouge	26-1	2,315	3,311	3,803	3,667	4,330
Ecorse	26-2	1,631	2,161	2,281	3,274	2,684
Court Summary	26	3,946	5,472	6,084	6,941	7,014
Wyandotte	27-1	4,633	6,436	6,793	11,269	10,469
Riverview	27-2	2,842	2,536	2,197	2,300	2,266
Court Summary	27	7,475	8,972	8,990	13,569	12,735
Southgate	28	9,201	9,403	8,412	7,423	9,455
Wayne (City)	29	7,046	7,509	10,446	9,337	7,877
Highland Park	30	4,617	5,756	5,449	9,558	9,954
Hamtramck	31	5,229	7,557	12,955	14,893	12,792
Harper Woods	32A	3,066	4,701	4,911	4,563	8,021
Woodhaven	33	20,514	21,989	19,987	23,048	27,664
Romulus	34	.	.	16,760	26,306	34,328
Plymouth	35	22,566	24,983	28,141	27,924	30,666
Detroit	36	430,958	315,201	348,298	482,487	522,215
Warren/Centerline	37	23,965	33,666	40,559	52,751	49,169
Roseville/Fraser	39	29,878	22,970	24,197	28,842	25,488
St. Clair Shores	40	19,740	15,822	15,947	16,214	13,064
Sterling Hts/Shelby Twn	41A	24,434	30,041	33,018	36,739	38,594
Mt. Clemens/Clinton Twn	41B	25,207	21,590	24,879	30,090	26,285
Macomb Co-Romeo	42-1	7,117	7,255	7,751	7,591	7,889
Macomb Co - New Baltimore	42-2	9,383	10,535	11,315	11,026	12,450
Court Summary	42	16,500	17,790	19,066	18,617	20,339
Ferndale/Hazel Pk/ Madison	43	24,743	25,152	23,546	30,716	34,013
Royal Oak	44	21,990	20,535	18,894	19,023	20,875
Berkley	45A	3,907	5,290	4,513	3,985	5,574
Oak Park	45B	13,052	15,944	20,326	21,565	22,614
Southfield	46	25,868	27,750	24,390	31,757	42,945
Farmington/ Farmington Hls	47	18,997	20,573	21,320	27,811	30,434
Bloomfield Twn	48	33,462	30,796	36,731	40,191	51,305
Pontiac	50	23,322	13,627	20,845	27,901	25,454
Waterford Twn	51	13,922	17,879	12,653	12,763	18,083
Oakland Co-Walled Lake	52-1	27,458	27,568	31,860	32,020	36,942
Oakland Co-Clarkston	52-2	9,599	13,662	14,306	14,358	17,560
Oakland Co-Rochester	52-3	25,130	23,682	27,588	30,574	36,486
Oakland Co-Troy	52-4	25,829	26,331	24,168	25,625	26,313
Court Summary	52	88,016	91,243	97,922	102,577	117,301

Table 5.5: Trends In District Court Filings, Continued

Court	District	Filed 1983	Filed 1984	Filed 1985	Filed 1986	Filed 1987
Region I Continued						
Genessee Co	67	55,742	54,857	58,778	62,590	65,916
Flint	68	.	37,649	38,301	56,158	66,671
St. Clair Co	72	26,352	28,063	30,061	32,760	31,663
Region I Total		1,255,522	1,184,645	1,317,709	1,592,107	1,712,007
Region II						
Lenawee Co	2-1	22,933	22,993	23,379	22,865	23,087
Hillsdale Co	2-2	6,144	6,797	8,616	8,619	9,635
Court Summary	2	29,077	29,790	31,995	31,484	32,722
Branch Co	3-1	8,595	10,059	10,145	10,095	12,682
St. Joseph Co	3-2	8,392	8,962	10,300	13,022	12,393
Court Summary	3	16,987	19,021	20,445	23,117	25,075
Cass Co	4	9,550	6,835	7,445	7,881	10,308
St. Joseph/Niles	5	42,625	44,448	45,334	50,358	51,955
Van Buren Co	7	17,641	16,760	17,838	21,293	22,544
Kalamazoo Co	8	24,288	22,284	18,938	20,209	23,630
Kalamazoo	9-1	26,270	28,750	28,362	42,262	48,691
Portage	9-2	6,318	6,444	7,093	8,769	9,180
Court Summary	9	32,588	35,194	35,455	51,031	57,871
Calhoun Co	10	32,433	37,298	37,142	41,562	48,958
Jackson Co/Jackson	12	43,261	39,629	40,950	40,773	37,844
Livingston Co	53	25,687	28,511	25,694	26,879	29,134
Lansing	54A	61,014	54,069	50,467	59,404	58,669
East Lansing	54B	16,995	.	30,344	26,952	22,621
Ingham Co	55	21,740	21,018	20,248	21,687	24,090
Barry Co	56-1	6,512	7,301	7,530	8,246	9,265
Eaton Co	56-2	17,019	16,371	19,290	23,972	25,465
Court Summary	56	23,531	23,672	26,820	32,218	34,730
Allegan Co	57	20,609	17,371	19,102	22,490	26,929
Ottawa Co	58	30,534	29,481	31,062	37,736	38,624
Grandville/Walker	59	9,577	11,034	10,229	11,750	10,903
Muskegon	60	47,314	49,722	48,135	40,531	38,018
Grand Rapids	61	46,331	52,272	56,666	66,824	59,522
Wyoming	62A	21,423	15,732	19,147	22,433	21,810
Kentwood	62B	8,628	8,863	9,392	9,932	10,824
Kent Co	63	38,785	40,146	40,181	42,797	41,304
Region II Total		620,618	603,1[illegible]	643,029	709,341	728,085
Region III						
Ionia Co	64A	14,625	14,166	15,887	18,412	20,309
Montcalm Co	64B	8,305	7,355	10,697	13,100	14,436
Gratiot Co	65-1	13,740	12,548	14,477	14,554	13,699
Clinton Co	65-2	9,720	10,798	12,926	11,284	13,092
Court Summary	65	23,460	23,346	27,403	25,838	26,791
Shiawassee Co	66	13,081	14,006	16,209	19,938	20,217
Saginaw Co	70	44,105	44,430	48,625	60,674	64,119
Lapeer Co	71A	17,403	16,123	16,821	20,260	17,858
Tuscola Co	71B	13,502	13,170	12,166	12,195	12,432

Table 5.5: Trends In District Court Filings, Continued

Court	District	Filed 1983	Filed 1984	Filed 1985	Filed 1986	Filed 1987
Region III Continued						
Huron Co	73-1	6,821	6,267	6,840	8,947	8,393
Sanilac Co	73-2	6,895	6,862	6,893	9,296	9,753
Court Summary	73	13,716	13,129	13,733	18,243	18,146
Bay Co	74	33,844	27,256	29,958	27,149	27,764
Midland Co	75	11,320	10,642	10,477	10,252	11,677
Isabella Co	76	9,936	8,924	8,951	9,907	11,384
Osceola Co/Mecosta Co	77	11,787	12,555	12,390	15,472	16,368
Lake Co/Newago Co	78	11,897	9,998	10,352	11,018	11,151
Mason Co/Oceana Co	79	8,250	7,374	9,416	9,847	11,419
Clare Co/Gladwin Co	80	9,561	9,408	10,063	11,688	10,450
Arenac Co/Iosco Co	81	11,952	11,485	10,642	12,162	13,294
Alcona/Ogemaw/ Oscoda Co	82	10,599	9,975	9,910	10,836	10,608
Region III Total		267,343	253,342	273,700	306,991	318,423
Region IV						
Crawford Co/ Roscommon Co	83	9,888	10,179	10,205	13,568	11,176
Missaukee Co/ Wexford Co	84	8,933	8,487	8,806	10,426	12,620
Benzie Co/Manistee Co	85	5,145	5,570	6,520	6,514	6,824
Gd Traverse/ Leelanau Co	86	13,639	13,645	14,378	15,807	18,310
Antrim/Kalkaska/ Otsego Co	87	13,262	10,364	11,925	12,925	14,950
Alpena Co/ Montmorency Co	88	7,197	7,301	6,594	8,280	8,699
Cheboygan/ Presque Isle Co	89	8,573	8,152	7,412	11,366	9,888
Charlevoix Co/ Emmet Co	90	8,895	9,753	9,999	10,218	12,368
Chippewa Co	91	6,521	6,355	5,742	6,887	6,690
Luce Co/Mackinac Co	92	6,828	7,257	7,000	7,806	9,375
Alger Co/ Schoolcraft Co	93	5,445	5,726	6,024	6,331	5,672
Delta Co	94	6,482	7,217	7,210	7,289	7,539
Menominee Co	95A	6,401	5,799	4,922	4,908	4,791
Dickinson Co/Iron Co	95B	6,387	6,501	6,809	7,344	7,816
Marquette Co	96	18,395	15,804	13,869	13,632	14,697
Baraga/Houghton/ Keweenaw	97	6,504	6,817	7,208	8,252	7,455
Gogebic Co/ Ontonagon Co	98	3,680	3,773	3,535	4,026	4,607
Region IV Total		142,175	138,700	138,158	155,579	163,477
Statewide Total		2,285,658	2,179,837	2,372,596	2,764,018	2,921,992

Table 5.6 District Court Summary Report

	Criminal Felony	Criminal Misdemeanor	Traffic	Civil			Total	Parking
				Civil	Small Claims	Summary		
Beginning Pending	25,539	109,809	688,428	69,035	29,681	11,082	933,574	143,805
New Cases Filed	65,339	222,181	2,251,204	150,926	109,945	122,397	2,921,992	221,786
Traffic Misdemeanor			626,038					
Traffic Civil			1,625,166					
Total Caseload	90,878	331,990	2,939,632	219,961	139,626	133,479	3,855,566	365,591
Dispositions								
Guilty Pleas/ Admissions of Responsibility	6,938	92,363	257,495	n/a	n/a	n/a	356,796	3,899
Non-Jury Trials, Hearings, Informal Hearings	247	11,414	58,057	7,272	23,841	24,021	124,852	2,693
Jury Trials	69	1,497	1,164	925	n/a	70	3,725	0
Preliminary Exams Waived	27,047	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27,047	n/a
Preliminary Exams Conducted	17,847	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17,847	n/a
Magistrate Informal Hearings	n/a	n/a	70,120	n/a	n/a	n/a	70,120	3,758
Magistrate Other Dispositions	n/a	38,897	288,145	n/a	n/a	n/a	327,042	19,185
Violations Bureau Dispositions	n/a	21,155	962,172	n/a	n/a	n/a	983,327	110,805
No Progress Dismissal, Non-Service Dismissal	n/a	n/a	n/a	24,393	14,322	4,544	43,259	n/a
Other Dispositions	10,362	48,440	599,265	120,709	69,345	91,544	939,665	85,953
Total Dispositions	62,510	213,766	2,236,418	153,299	107,508	120,179	2,893,680	226,293
Ending Pending	28,368	118,224	703,214	66,662	32,118	13,300	961,886	139,298

n/a: not applicable

MUNICIPAL COURT

Municipal Court jurisdiction is limited to $1,500 in civil cases. Criminal jurisdiction is the same as District Court jurisdiction. Only a few municipalities have chosen to retain Municipal Court rather than to change to the District Court.

Municipal Judges must be lawyers, residents, and electors of their municipalities. They are paid by the municipalities and are elected for six-year terms.

Municipal Court Activities

In 1987 there were 33,769 new cases filed in Municipal Courts, nearly unchanged from the 33,893 cases filed in 1986. The majority of the 1987 new filings were traffic cases (90.7%) while 6.4% were criminal cases and 2.9% were civil cases (see Figure 5.7). Between 1986 and 1987 criminal filings decreased by 27.4% (-813), traffic filings increased by 2.8% (825), and civil filings decreased by 12.1% (-136).

Of the 2,152 criminal filings in 1987, 83.2% (1,791) were misdemeanors and 16.8% (361) were felonies (see Figure 5.8). In 1987 criminal felony filings decreased by 14.7% (-62) from 1986 and criminal misdemeanor filings decreased by 29.5% (-751).

In 1987 there were 30,625 traffic related cases filed. Civil violations accounted for 57.1% (17,478) of the traffic filings while misdemeanor offenses accounted for 42.9% (13,147) of the traffic filings (see Figure 5.9). Misdemeanor traffic offenses decreased by 2.0% (-275) from 1986 while civil traffic offenses increased by 6.7% (1,100).

Of the 992 civil cases filed in 1987, 53.2% (528) were general civil cases, 32.4% (321) were small claims, and 14.4% (143) involved summary proceedings (see Figure 5.10). Between 1986 and 1987 general civil offenses decreased by 26.9% (-194), small claims increased by 40.8% (93), and summary cases decreased by 19.7% (-35).

In 1987 there were an average of 5,628 new filings for each judge in Municipal Court. This was approximately the same as 1986 when there were 5,649 filings per judge.

At the end of 1987 there were 3,416 cases pending in Municipal Court or a decrease of 25.4% from 1986 (see Table 5.7). Of these, 69.2% (2,365) were traffic cases, 21.6% (737) were criminal cases, and 9.2% (314) were civil cases (see Figure 5.11). Detailed Municipal Court caseload information is presented in Table 5.8.

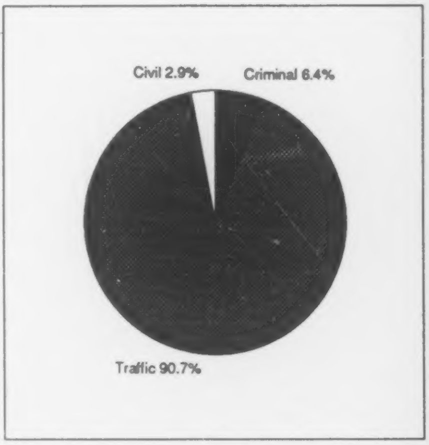


FIGURE 5.7: MUNICIPAL COURT FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

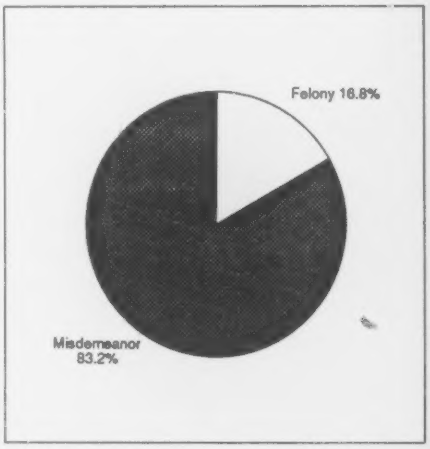


FIGURE 5.8: MUNICIPAL COURT CRIMINAL FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

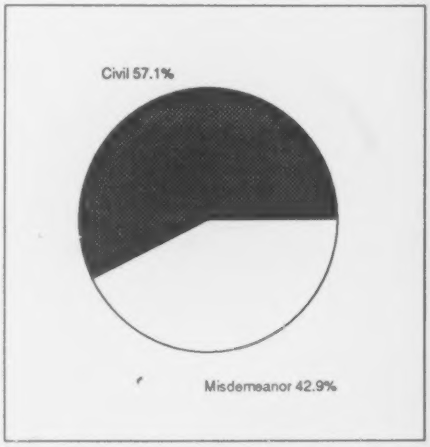


FIGURE 5.9: MUNICIPAL COURT TRAFFIC FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

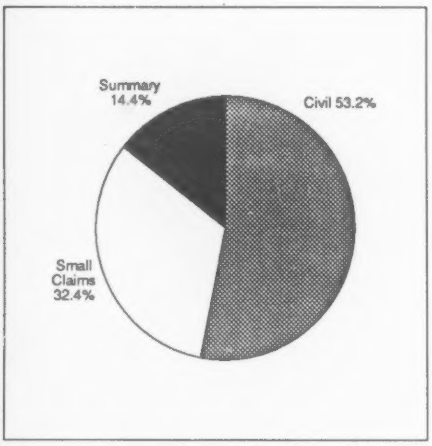


FIGURE 5.10: MUNICIPAL COURT CIVIL FILINGS BY TYPE, 1987

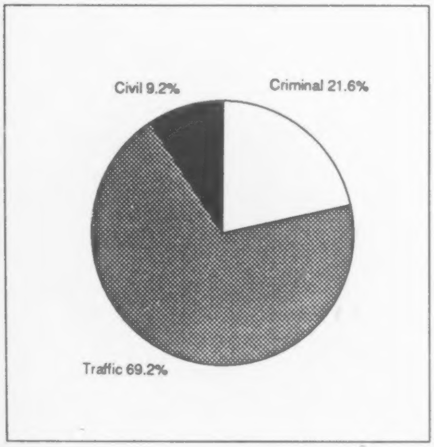


FIGURE 5.11: MUNICIPAL COURT ENDING PENDING CASES BY TYPE, 1987

Table 5.7: Municipal Court Ending Pending Cases, 1987

Case Type	Ending Pending	Percent Within Case Type	Percent of Total
Criminal			
Felony	176	23.9	5.2
Misdemeanor	561	76.1	16.4
Criminal Total	737	100.0	21.6
Traffic	2365	100.0	69.2
Civil			
Civil	163	51.9	4.8
Small Claims	72	22.9	2.1
Summary Proceedings	79	25.2	2.3
Civil Total	314	100.0	9.2
Grand Total	3416	100.0	100.0

Table 5.8 Municipal Court Summary Report

				Civil				
	Criminal Felony	Criminal Misdemeanor	Traffic	Civil	Small Claims	Summary	Total	Parking
Beginning Pending	148	679	3,121	517	27	49	4,541	486
New Cases Filed	361	1,791	30,625	528	321	143	33,769	8,790
Traffic Misdemeanor			13,147					
Traffic Civil			17,478					
Total Caseload	509	2,470	33,746	1,045	348	192	38,310	9,276
Dispositions								
Guilty Pleas/ Admissions of Responsibility	123	851	4,638	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,612	10
Non-Jury Trials, Hearings, Informal Hearings	0	324	3,202	198	136	100	3,960	121
Jury Trials	0	9	9	0	n/a	0	18	0
Preliminary Exams Waived	108	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	108	n/a
Preliminary Exams Conducted	75	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	75	n/a
Magistrate Informal Hearings	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Magistrate Other Dispositions	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0
Violations Bureau Dispositions	n/a	228	19,457	n/a	n/a	n/a	19,685	4,435
No Progress Dismissal, Non-Service Dismissal	n/a	n/a	n/a	173	63	3	239	n/a
Other Dispositions	27	497	4,075	511	77	10	5,197	4,330
Total Dispositons	333	1,909	31,381	882	276	113	34,894	8,896
Ending Pending	176	561	2,365	163	72	79	3,416	380

n/a: not applicable

Michigan Judiciary

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES
1987

Dorothy Comstock Riley
Chief Justice

Dennis W. Archer
Associate Justice

James H. Brickley
Associate Justice

Robert P. Griffin
Associate Justice

Patricia J. Boyle
Associate Justice

Michael F. Cavanagh
Associate Justice

Charles L. Levin
Associate Justice

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES
Serving During 1987

Robert J. Danhof
Chief Judge

William R. Beasley
Robert B. Burns
Walter P. Cynar
Martin Myles Doctoroff
John H. Gillis
Roman S. Gribbs
Donald E. Holbrook, Jr.
Harold Hood
Michael J. Kelly
Barbara B. MacKenzie
Richard M. Maher
Gary R. McDonald
David H. Sawyer
John H. Shepherd
Joseph B. Sullivan
Myron H. Wahls
Daniel F. Walsh
Elizabeth Ann Weaver

CIRCUIT AND RECORDER'S COURT JUDGES
Serving During 1987

1st Circuit Court	Harvey W. Moes
2nd Circuit Court	Zoe S. Burkholz
	Casper Othello Grathwohl
	John T. Hammond
	Ronald J. Taylor
3rd Circuit Court	Marianne O. Battani
	Susan D. Borman
	Thomas J. Brennan
	William Leo Cahalan
	Robert J. Colombo, Jr.
	Michael J. Connor
	Harry J. Dingeman, Jr.
	Charles S. Farmer
	Sharon Tevis Finch
	Thomas J. Foley
	John H. Gillis, Jr.
	William J. Giovan
	James A. Hathaway
	Richard P. Hathaway
	John H. Hausner
	J. Phillip Jourdan
	Charles Kaufman
	Richard C. Kaufman
	John R. Kirwan
	Kathleen I. Macdonald
	James E. Mies
	Claudia House Morcom
	John A. Murphy
	Roland L. Olzark
	James J. Rashid
	Maureen Pulte Reilly
	Louis F. Simmons, Jr.
	Michael L. Stacey
	Marvin R. Stempien
	Cynthia Diane Stephens
	Henry J. Szymanski
	Paul S. Teranes
	Kaye Tertzag
	Lucile A. Watts
	Helene Nita White
4th Circuit Court	Gordon W. Britten
	James G. Fleming
	Russell E. Noble
	Alexander C. Perlos
5th Circuit Court	Hudson E. Deming
	Richard M. Shuster

6th Circuit Court	Robert C. Anderson
	Steven N. Andrews
	David F. Breck
	Jessica R. Cooper
	Hilda R. Gage
	Alice L. Gilbert
	Richard D. Kuhn
	Norman L. Lippitt
	Fred M. Mester
	Francis X. O'Brien
	John N. O'Brien
	Gene Schnelz
	Robert Lewis Templin, Jr.
	James S. Thorburn
7th Circuit Court	Earl E. Borradaile
	Philip C. Elliott
	Donald R. Freeman
	Judith A. Fullerton
	Robert M. Ransom
	Valdemar L. Washington
	Thomas C. Yeotis
8th Circuit Court	James L. Banks
	Charles W. Simon, Jr.
9th Circuit Court	John F. Foley
	Richard Ryan Lamb
	C. H. Mullen, Jr.
	Philip D. Schaefer
	William Gardner Schma
10th Circuit Court	Fred J. Borchard
	Leopold P. Borello
	Robert S. Gilbert
	Robert L. Kaczmarek
	Gary R. McDonald
	Joseph R. McDonald
11th Circuit Court	William F. Hood
12th Circuit Court	Stephen D. Condon
13th Circuit Court	William R. Brown
	Charles M. Forster
14th Circuit Court	R. Max Daniels
	James M. Graves, Jr.
	Michael Eugene Kobza
	Ronald H. Pannucci
15th Circuit Court	Michael H. Cherry

16th Circuit Court	Frederick D. Balkwill
	John B. Bruff
	Raymond R. Cashen
	Robert J. Chrzanowski
	George R. Deneweth
	Kathleen Jansen
	Kenneth N. Sanborn
	Michael D. Schwartz
17th Circuit Court	Robert A. Benson
	George V. Boucher
	George S. Buth
	George R. Cook
	Stuart Hoffius
	Roman J. Snow
18th Circuit Court	William J. Caprathe
	Eugene C. Penzien
	John X. Theiler
19th Circuit Court	James M. Batzer
20th Circuit Court	Calvin L. Bosman
	James E. Townsend
21st Circuit Court	Paul F. O'Connell
22nd Circuit Court	William F. Ager, Jr.
	Ross W. Campbell, Jr.
	Henry T. Conlin
	Patrick J. Conlin
	Edward D. Deake
23rd Circuit Court	J. Richard Ernst
24th Circuit Court	Allen E. Keyes
25th Circuit Court	Raymond J. Jason
	Edward A. Quinnell
26th Circuit Court	Robert R. Ferguson
	Joseph P. Swallow
27th Circuit Court	Terrence R. Thomas
28th Circuit Court	William R. Peterson
29th Circuit Court	Timothy M. Green
	Randy L. Tahvonen
30th Circuit Court	Robert Holmes Bell
	Thomas L. Brown
	James R. Giddings
	Lawrence M. Glazer

30th Circuit Court	Michael G. Harrison
	Peter D. Houk
	James T. Kallman
	Carolyn Stell
31st Circuit Court	James T. Corden
	Peter E. Deegan
	Ernest F. Oppliger
32nd Circuit Court	William G. Cloon, Jr.
33rd Circuit Court	Richard M. Pajtas
34th Circuit Court	Carl L. Horn
35th Circuit Court	Gerald D. Lostracco
36th Circuit Court	Meyer Warshawsky
37th Circuit Court	James C. Kingsley
	Stephen B. Miller
	Paul Nicolich
38th Circuit Court	James J. Kelley
	William F. LaVoy
	Daniel L. Sullivan
39th Circuit Court	Kenneth B. Glaser, Jr.
	John C. Timms
40th Circuit Court	Norman A. Baguley
	Martin E. Clements
41st Circuit Court	Francis D. Brouillette
	John D. Payant
42nd Circuit Court	Paul J. Clulo
	Tyrone Gillespie
43rd Circuit Court	Michael E. Dodge
44th Circuit Court	Daniel A. Burress
	Stanley J. Latreille
45th Circuit Court	James P. Noecker
46th Circuit Court	Alton T. Davis, Jr.
	William A. Porter
47th Circuit Court	Dean J. Shipman
48th Circuit Court	George R. Corsiglia
49th Circuit Court	Lawrence C. Root
50th Circuit Court	Nicholas J. Lambros

51st Circuit Court	Richard I. Cooper
52nd Circuit Court	M. Richard Knoblock
53rd Circuit Court	Robert C. Livo
54th Circuit Court	Patrick Reed Joslyn
55th Circuit Court	Kurt N. Hansen
Recorder's Court	Wendy M. Baxter
	Terrance K. Boyle
	Dominick R. Carnovale
	James R. Chylinski
	Evelyn K. Cooper
	George W. Crockett, III
	Gershwin Allen Drain
	Prentis Edwards
	Robert L. Evans
	Geraldine Bledsoe Ford
	Samuel C. Gardner
	Joseph A. Gillis
	Henry L. Heading
	Donald Lewis Hobson
	Thomas Edward Jackson
	Beverley Anne Jasper
	Clarice Jobes
	Vera Massey Jones
	David P. Kerwin
	Warfield Moore, Jr.
	John Patrick O'Brien
	Dalton A. Roberson
	James E. Roberts
	Michael F. Sapala
	M. John Shamo
	Lawrence D. Silverman
	Craig S. Strong
	Michael J. Talbot
	Edward M. Thomas
	Leonard Townsend

PROBATE COURT JUDGES
Serving During 1987

Alcona County Probate Court	Paul T. Dwyer, Jr.
Alger County Probate Court	William A. Werner
Allegan County Probate Court	George A. Greig
Alpena County Probate Court	Douglas A. Pugh
Antrim County Probate Court	John W. Unger
Arenac County Probate Court	Ronald M. Bergeron
Baraga County Probate Court	Garfield W. Hood
Barry County Probate Court	Richard H. Shaw
Bay County Probate Court	Paul N. Doner
Benzie County Probate Court	John F. Huft
Berrien County Probate Court	Donald J. Dick Wilbur Schillinger
Branch County Probate Court	Edward R. DeVito
Calhoun County Probate Court	John M. Brundage Phillip E. Harter
Cass County Probate Court	Herbert E. Phillipson, Jr.
Charlevoix County Probate Court	John T. Murphy
Cheboygan County Probate Court	Joanna Neale
Chippewa County Probate Court	Lowell R. Ulrich
Clare County Probate Court	Alexander T. Strange, II
Clinton County Probate Court	Marvin E. Robertson
Crawford County Probate Court	Emil L. Kraus
Delta County Probate Court	Robert E. Goebel, Jr.
Dickinson County Probate Court	Robert G. Foster
Eaton County Probate Court	Robert C. Ballard
Emmet County Probate Court	John T. Murphy
Genesee County Probate Court	Thomas L. Gadola Allen J. Nelson Luke Quinn

Gladwin County Probate Court	Alexander T. Strange, II
Gogebic County Probate Court	Timothy J. Mahoney
Grand Traverse County Probate Court	Kenneth G. Mackness
Gratiot County Probate Court	James A. Harmony
Hillsdale County Probate Court	Albert J. Neukom
Houghton County Probate Court	John A. Mikkola
Huron County Probate Court	Neil R. MacCallum David L. Clabuesch
Ingham County Probate Court	R. George Economy Donald S. Owens
Ionia County Probate Court	Gerald J. Supina
Iosco County Probate Court	William H. McCready
Iron County Probate Court	Oswald G. Casanova
Isabella County Probate Court	David E. Burrows
Jackson County Probate Court	Kevin J. Daly Frederick O. Sill
Kalamazoo County Probate Court	James S. Casey Donald R. Halstead Carolyn H. Williams
Kalkaska County Probate Court	Odell B. Carlisle
Kent County Probate Court	Donald J. DeYoung Randall J. Hekman John P. Steketee A. Dale Stoppels
Keweenaw County Probate Court	James G. Jaaskelainen
Lake County Probate Court	Mark S. Wickens
Lapeer County Probate Court	Clayton E. Preisel
Leelanau County Probate Court	John Michael Senger
Lenawee County Probate Court	Robert J. Baker
Livingston County Probate Court	Donald E. Rink
Luce County Probate Court	Steven E. Ford
Mackinac County Probate Court	George J. Theut

Macomb County Probate Court	Thomas L. Buller James F. Nowicki Robert E. Spier
Manistee County Probate Court	John R. DeVries
Marquette County Probate Court	Michael J. Anderegg
Mason County Probate Court	Francis K. Bourisseau
Mecosta County Probate Court	LaVail E. Hull
Menominee County Probate Court	Craig A. Rolfs
Midland County Probate Court	Donna T. Morris
Missaukee County Probate Court	Frederick S. Krupp
Monroe County Probate Court	Joseph Anthony Costello, Jr. James McCauley Seitz
Montcalm County Probate Court	John R. Vusich
Montmorency County Probate Court	Robert P.M. Nordstrom
Muskegon County Probate Court	Tom H. Linck Neil G. Mullally
Newaygo County Probate Court	Thomas J. Eggleston
Oakland County Probate Court	Norman R. Barnard Barry M. Grant Eugene Arthur Moore John J. O'Brien
Oceana County Probate Court	Gerald T. Graham
Ogemaw County Probate Court	Raymond L. King
Ontonagon County Probate Court	Roy D. Gotham
Osceola County Probate Court	LaVail E. Hull
Oscoda County Probate Court	Kathryn Joan Root
Otsego County Probate Court	Richard J. Liedel
Ottawa County Probate Court	Jack A. Vande Bunte
Presque Isle County Probate Court	Kenneth A. Radzibon
Roscommon County Probate Court	Michael J. Baumgartner
Saginaw County Probate Court	Faye M. Harrison Edmund M. Troester

St. Clair County Probate Court	R. Gerald Barr
	Robert R. Spillard
St. Joseph County Probate Court	John E. Morley
Sanilac County Probate Court	George E. Benko
Schoolcraft County Probate Court	William A. Werner
Shiawassee County Probate Court	James R. Clatterbaugh
Tuscola County Probate Court	W. Wallace Kent, Jr.
Van Buren County Probate Court	Frank D. Willis
Washtenaw County Probate Court	John N. Kirkendall
	Judith J. Wood
Wayne County Probate Court	Y. Gladys Barsamian
	Freddie George Burton, Jr.
	J. Robert Gragg, Jr.
	James E. Lacey
	Thomas A. Maher
	Martin T. Maher
	Joseph J. Pernick
	Frances Pitts
	Anthony J. Szymanski
	Frank S. Szymanski
Wexford County Probate Court	Walter F. Ransom

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES
Serving During 1987

1st District Court	Mary Patricia Costello
	Michael W. LaBeau
	William L. Taft
2-1 District Court	Natalia M. Koselka
	James E. Sheridan
2-2 District Court	Donald L. Sanderson
3-1 District Court	David T. Coyle
3-2 District Court	William L. McManus
4th District Court	Paul E. Deats
5th District Court	Hugh W. Black
	Daniel R. Deja
	John N. Fields
	David M. Peterson
	Lynda A. Tolen
7th District Court	William C. Buhl
	David C. Grier
8th District Court	Karl G. Erickson
	Kenneth E. Long
9-1 District Court	James P. Coyle
	Arvin L. Davis
	Ann L. Hannon
	Donald E. James
9-2 District Court	Kenneth A. Fricke
10th District Court	Allen L. Garbrecht
	Franklin K. Line, Jr.
	Alfonso A. Magnotta
	Shelton C. Penn
12th District Court	Robert E. Biewend
	Robert Crary, Jr.
	Lysle G. Hall
	James M. Justin
14A District Court	Kenneth Bronson
	Karl Voorhies Fink
	Thomas F. Shea
14B District Court	John B. Collins
15th District Court	George W. Alexander
	S. J. Elden
	Pieter G. V. Thomassen

16th District Court	Robert B. Brzezinski James R. McCann
17th District Court	Robert F. Brang John M. Dillon
18th District Court	Gail McKnight Thomas G. Smith
19th District Court	Joseph J. Burtell Virginia A. Sobotka
20th District Court	Duane Dunick Leo K. Foran
21st District Court	Richard L. Hammer
22nd District Court	John H. McCartney
23rd District Court	Anthony Nicita William J. Sutherland
24th District Court	A. R. DeBiasi Michael T. Russell
25th District Court	Joseph H. DeLaurentiis Roy B. Cicotte
26-1 District Court	Raymond A. Charron
26-2 District Court	Michael F. Ciungan
27-1 District Court	Lawrence L. Emmert
27-2 District Court	Glenn C. Valasco
28th District Court	Donald C. Neitzel
29th District Court	Carolyn Ann Archbold
30th District Court	William F. Bledsoe L. Kim Hoagland
31st District Court	Walter Adam Paruk
32A District Court	Roger J. La Rose
33rd District Court	Donald L. Swank Kurt G. Kersten
34th District Court	James B. Stone Henry Zaborowski
35th District Court	James N. Garber John E. MacDonald

36th District Court	Alex J. Allen, Jr.
	David M. Bradfield
	Nancy McCaughan Blount
	Gerald Brock
	Frederick E. Byrd
	Wendy Cooley
	John Cozart, Jr.
	Daphne Means Curtis
	R. Patrick Donahue
	Theresa Doss
	Gershwin Allen Drain
	Claudia Lauchie' Gartin
	Jimmylee Gray
	Rufus Griffin, Jr.
	William A. Haley, Jr.
	Pamela R. Harwood
	William J. Hathaway
	Denise Page Hood
	Leon Jenkins
	Willie G. Lipscomb, Jr.
	Ricardo J. Lubienski
	Marion A. Moore
	Elbert E. Nance, Jr.
	John R. Perry
	Longworth D. Quinn
	Adam A. Shakoor
	Chris E. Stith
	Isidore B. Torres
	Daniel J. Van Antwerp
	Thomas A. Van Tiem, Sr.
37th District Court	Sherman P. Faunce, II
	Thomas Edward Kennedy
	George E. Montgomery
	Deborah A. Servitto
39th District Court	Mary E. McDevitt
	William B. Ward
40th District Court	William A. Crouchman
	Craigen J. Oster
41A District Court	Herman C. Campbell
	Andrew R. Dranchak
	Kenneth J. Kosnic
	Thomas W. McDonell
41B District Court	William H. Cannon
	George C. Steeh
42-1 District Court	Richard D. McLean
42-2 District Court	Richard E. Cyrul
43rd District Court	Joseph S. Agnello
	Robert J. Turner
	Douglas J.M. Voss

44th District Court	John R. Mann
	Daniel Sawicki
45A District Court	John H. Norton
45B District Court	Marvin F. Frankel
	Benjamin J. Friedman
46th District Court	Bryan Howard Levy
	Stephen C. Cooper
	Susan M. Moiseev
47th District Court	Michael J. Hand
	Margaret G. Schaeffer
48th District Court	Gus Cifelli
	Bernard A. Friedman
	Edward Sosnick
50th District Court	Christopher C. Brown
	Robert E. Cunningham
	Louis E. Fairbrother
	James R. Stelt
51st District Court	Robert W. Carr
	Kenneth H. Hempstead
52-1 District Court	Michael Batchik
	Martin L. Boyle
	Harold M. Bulgarelli
52-2 District Court	Gerald E. McNally
52-3 District Court	James P. Sheehy
	Robert L. Shipper
52-4 District Court	William E. Bolle
	Dennis C. Drury
	Bristol E. Hunter
53rd District Court	Frank R. Del Vero
	David G. Gee
	Michael F. Merritt
54A District Court	Patrick F. Cherry
	William E. Collette
	John W. Davis
	Charles F. Filice
	Claude R. Thomas
	James J. Wood
54B District Court	Julius I. Hanslovsky
55th District Court	Thomas E. Brennan, Jr.
	Thomas R. Roberts

56-1 District Court	Gary R. Holman
56-2 District Court	Paul F. Berger
	Kenneth A. Hansen
57th District Court	Gary A. Stewart
	Harry A. Beach
58th District Court	John Galien, Jr.
	Richard J. Kloote
	Kenneth D. Post
59th District Court	Sherwin J. Venema
60th District Court	William J. Cole
	Edward Campbell Farmer, Jr.
	Fredric A. Grimm, Jr.
	William C. Marietti
	Richard J. Pasarela
61st District Court	Patrick C. Bowler
	Joel P. Hoekstra
	Carol S. Irons
	Donald A. Johnston, III
	Michael R. Smolenski
62A District Court	Jack R. Jelsema
	Richard H. Timmers
62B District Court	William G. Kelly
63-1 District Court	Steven R. Servaas
63-2 District Court	Joseph B. White
64A District Court	James R. Ward
64B District Court	Arney E. Mustonen
65-1 District Court	James B. Mackie
65-2 District Court	Jeffrey L. Martlew
66th District Court	George L. BeGole
	Bruce A. Fox
67-1 District Court	Harry P. Newblatt
67-2 District Court	Charles B. Mosier
	Gerald D. Snodgrass
67-3 District Court	William R. Evans
67-4 District Court	Ronald W. Black
	Harland R. Caswell

68th District Court	Peter Anastor
	Thomas M. Donnellan
	Albert P. Horrigan
	Michael D. McAra
	Geoffrey L. Neithercut
	Kenneth M. Siegel
70-1 District Court	Joseph G. DeFrancesco
	Harry M. Titus
	Daniel R. Webber
70-2 District Court	Robert E. Bright
	Bruce J. Scorsone
	Kyle Higgs Tarrant
71A District Court	John T. Connolly
	Michael C. Dionise
71B District Court	Richard F. Kern
72nd District Court	Richard A. Cooley, Jr.
	John G. Cummings
	Daniel J. Kelly
73-1 District Court	John T. Schubel
73-2 District Court	James A. Marcus
74th District Court	Craig D. Alston
	John C. Leaming
	Scott J. Newcombe
75th District Court	Thomas A. Beale
	Robert G. Fraser
76th District Court	Peter D. O'Connell
77th District Court	George Van Kula
78th District Court	Richard J. Farabaugh
79th District Court	John R. Carney, Jr.
80th District Court	Gary J. Allen
81st District Court	Robert J. Hummel
82nd District Court	Joel I. Mills
83rd District Court	Francis L. Walsh
84th District Court	Charles D. Corwin
85th District Court	Brent V. Danielson

86th District Court	Richard L. Benedict James R. McCormick
87th District Court	E. Patrick Murray
88th District Court	Theodore O. Johnson
89th District Court	Harold A. Johnson, Jr.
90th District Court	Harvey C. Varnum
91st District Court	Michael W. MacDonald
92nd District Court	Robert A. Wood
93rd District Court	Charles H. Stark
94th District Court	Robert J. DeGrand
95A District Court	Jeffrey G. Barstow
95B District Court	William R. Brouillette
96th District Court	James M. Collins Patricia L. Micklow
97th District Court	William G. Konstenius
98th District Court	Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.

MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES
Serving During 1987

Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Court	Beverly C. Grobbel Kirsten Frank
Grosse Pointe Municipal Court	Stan C. Kazul
Grosse Pointe Farms Municipal Court	Peter E. O'Rourke
Grosse Pointe Woods Municipal Court	Patricia M. Schneider
East Detroit Municipal Court	Benedict Segesta Martin J. Smith

State Court Administrative Office

STATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

According to the Michigan Constitution, Article VI, Section 3, "...the Supreme Court shall appoint an administrator of the courts and other assistants of the Supreme Court as may be necessary to aid in the administration of the courts of the State. The administrator shall perform administrative duties assigned by the court. Under the general direction of the Supreme Court, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) is responsible in assisting in the administration of justice in Michigan's trial courts. The State Court Administrator is also responsible for advising the Supreme Court, as well as the executive and legislative branches, on matters relating to management of the State's One Court of Justice."

Specifically, the State Court Administrative Office provides management and technical assistance to over 550 judges of 241 trial courts and trial court staff on matters relating to trial court management. This function is inherent in the role of the State Court Administrative Office and consumes a majority of the resources of the State Court Administrative Office.

The SCAO collects, analyzes, and publishes management information regarding operations of trial courts. This information is used by the Supreme Court and State Court Administrator in evaluating the performance of Michigan courts, making decisions regarding operations and necessary changes in operations, and regarding required resources. The information is also used to answer inquiries regarding court operations from the Executive and Legislative Branches of government and the general public.

The State Court Administrative Office assists in the evaluation of court rules and legislation affecting administration of courts, and proposes changes to rules and statutes where appropriate.

The Judicial Data Center, (JDC), a division of the State Court Administrative Office, advises and assists trial courts in the selection, acquisition, installation, programming, and operation of automated data processing systems. The JDC maintains on-line data processing services for District and Probate Courts and provides software development and enhancement services for all trial courts. The Judicial Data Center has developed and distributed systems for independent operation on minicomputers and microcomputers for District, Circuit, and Probate Courts.

The SCAO provides staff support to the Supreme Court study commissions and task forces. In 1987, the Supreme Court appointed the Task Forces on Gender Issues in the Courts and Racial/Ethnic Issues in the Courts, to examine and recommend necessary changes in court rules, procedures and administrative policies necessary to "assure equal treatment for men and women, free from race or gender bias," in Michigan Courts. The task forces are staffed by SCAO and will issue reports in 1988.

The Friend of the Court Bureau is established in the State Court Administrative Office by the Friend of the Court Act, 1983 PA 294. The Bureau provides technical and management assistance to Circuit Judges and local Friend of the Court offices on domestic relations matters, and is responsible for the development of child support and visitation guidelines, development of recommended procedures for Friend of the Court offices, training of local trial court personnel, publication of information regarding child support and friend of the court matters for attorneys, litigants, and the general public, and for staff support to the Friend of the Court Advisory Committee.

The Foster Care Review Board program was established in 1980 as a pilot program to be administered by the State Court Administrative Office. In 1984, the Legislature approved continuation of the project, and in 1986 enacted 1986 PA 159, which extends the program for an additional three years and provides specific criteria for the creation of local foster care review boards. Local foster care review boards, composed of volunteer citizens, review efforts by the Juvenile courts, Department of Social Services, and private children's agencies to establish and carry out plans for permanent placement of children in foster care. A statewide Advisory Committee uses data collected at the local level to advocate for the necessary resources and system modifications to ensure the quality and consistency of placement services for children statewide.

The Felony Sentencing Guidelines project is administered by the State Court Administrative Office with the advice of the Sentencing Guidelines Advisory Committee. Guidelines for use by trial judges in sentencing persons convicted of felonies are formulated based on statutory sentencing practices. Trial judges who deviate from the guidelines must indicate their reasons "on the record". Data regarding the sentencing of convicted felons is collected and analyzed by the State Court Administrative office for review in aggregate by the Sentencing Guidelines Advisory Committee.

Regional Offices of the State Court Administrative Office are located in Detroit, Lansing, Mt. Pleasant, and Gaylord. For trial courts located within their respective regions, they provide technical, administrative, and management assistance; facilitate communication among trial courts and between trial courts and the State Court Administrative Office and Supreme Court; implement policies of the Supreme Court and the State Court Administrative Office; oversee the management of caseflow and the administration of judicial assignments; resolve disputes between trial courts and their funding units; respond to complaints from other agencies and the public regarding trial court operations; and advise the State Court Administrator on matters relating to judicial administration. The regional program is a key element in the implementation of the Supreme Court's program to improve Michigan Courts.

The State Court Administrative Office also administers the judicial assignment program and the Docket Control Center of the Detroit Recorder's Court; manages judicial elections; collects and analyzes trial court workload and other statistics; advises the Supreme Court on administrative matters; provides technical personnel and labor relations advice to trial courts; operates a court reporting and recording certification program; calls and manages judicial conferences; develops and maintains manuals for trial courts; develops and enhances forms and manuals for use in trial courts; and performs other functions relating to the administration of the courts.

A graphic illustration of the organization and functions of the State Court Administrative Office is shown in Figure 7.1.

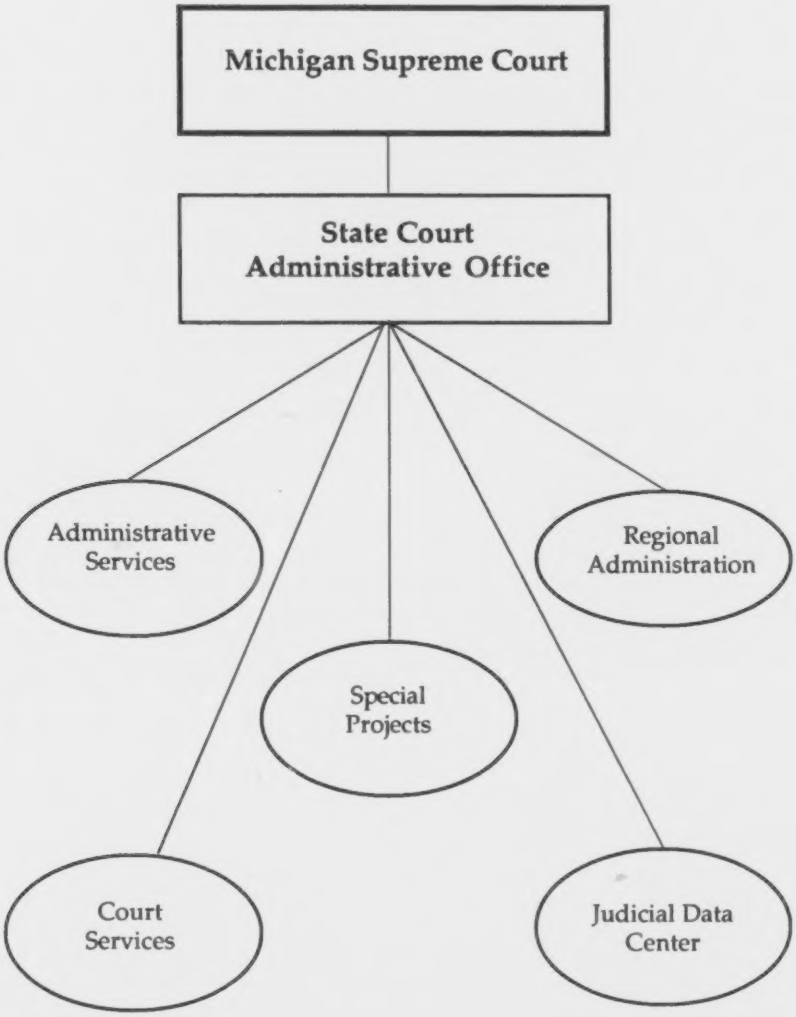

Michigan Supreme Court
State Court Administrative Office
Administrative Services
Regional Administration
Special Projects
Court Services
Judicial Data Center

FIGURE 7.1: ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE FUNCTIONS

Central Administration

- Policy Formation
- Office Management and Services
- Budget
- Central Office Automation

Administrative Services

- Trial Court Management
- Information Collection and Analysis
- Judicial Elections
- Personnel Technical Assistance
- Court Reporter Certification
- Coordination of Judicial Assignments
- Directories
- Sentencing Guidelines
- Statistical Analysis and Management Information
- Annual Report
- Foster Care Review Board

Court Services

- Liaison to Trial Courts and Court-related Associations
- Technical Assistance
- Manuals and Forms
- Trial Court Workload Analysis
- Caseflow Management
- Friend of the Court Bureau
- Research and Planning
- Analysis of Court Rules and Legislation

Special Projects

- Development and Administration of Special Court Improvement Projects
- Trial Court Public Information and Education Development Project
- Child Support Enforcement System Project (CSES)
- Interstate Enforcement of Child Support Project

Judicial Data Center

- Technical Assistance to Trial Courts on Data Processing
- Trial Court On-Line and Distributed Systems Development and Maintenance
- Court System Design and Development

Regional Administration

- Caseflow Management
- Judicial Assignments
- Administrative, Management and Technical Assistance to Trial Courts
- Communication Link Between Trial Courts and SCAO Central Offices and State Agencies
- Monitoring of Trial Court Activity
- Receipt and Handling of Public Inquiries
- Resolution of Disputes Between Trial Courts and Other Branches of Local Government

Advisory Committees and Task Forces

SUPREME COURT AND STATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

As a matter of policy, the Supreme Court and State Court Administrative Office make extensive use of advisory committees composed of justice system professionals, attorneys, and the general public, to provide advice on the conduct of court improvement projects, the development of forms, procedures, and manuals and other initiatives. While most of these advisory committees and task forces are created for specific projects and, therefore, exist only for the period of time that the initiative or project is underway, some committees are established as "standing" committees and operate continuously. These "standing" committees consist of persons who are rotated with some frequency in order to maximize input from the participants in the justice system.

The advisory committees and task forces in operation during 1987 are described below.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT RULES

On request of the Michigan Supreme Court, an Ad Hoc Committee on Domestic Relations Court Rules has been appointed. The purpose of the Committee is to review existing Domestic Relations Local and Michigan Court Rules and make recommendations for change. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the committee in 1987 include:

Marianne O. Battani
Judge
Michigan Judges Association

Shirley J. Burgoyne
Family Law Section
State Bar of Michigan

William D. Camden
Friend of the Court
Association

Michael H. Cherry
Judge
Michigan Judges Association

Catherine E. Davis
Friend of the Court
Association

Jon T. Ferrier
Referee Association of
Michigan

Ronald H. Foon
Referee Association of
Michigan

Harvey I. Hauer
Family Law Section
State Bar of Michigan

CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Caseflow Management Coordinating Committee was established by a Supreme Court Administrative Order in December, 1985. The 22 member committee was appointed to serve for two years and is made up of circuit, district, and probate judges; court administrators; members of the Michigan Bar, and one county clerk. The Committee is responsible for recommending time guidelines for the disposition of civil and criminal cases, working to improve information systems and recommending improved caseflow management procedures.

Two pilot court sites were selected to test the procedures and manual case information systems recommended by the Committee. They were the 35th Circuit Court, Shiawasee County and the 25th Circuit Court, Marquette County. In June, 1987, the Committee submitted its Trial Report to the Supreme Court. The final report includes proposed time guidelines for case processing, amendments to Court Rules, proposed Michigan Court Rules and other amendments to statutes. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Dennis W. Archer
Supervising Justice
Michigan Supreme Court

Michael G. Harrison, Chair
Judge
30th Circuit Court

Y. Gladys Barsamian
Judge
Wayne County
Probate Ct.

William H. Cannon
Judge
41B District Court

Hilda R. Gage
Judge
6th Circuit Court

Samuel Gardner
Judge
Recorder's Court

Robert E. Goebel, Jr.
Judge
Delta County Probate Ct.

William P. Hampton
Attorney
Farmington Hills

James P. Harkins
Administrator
14A District Court

Phillip E. Harter
Judge
Calhoun County
Probate Ct.

William G. Kelly
Judge
62B District Court

Michael F. Merritt
Judge
53rd District Court

James E. Mies
Judge
3rd Circuit Court

Eugene D. Mossner
Attorney
Saginaw

William Reamon, Sr.
Attorney
Grand Rapids

Adam A. Shakoor
Judge
36th District Court

Douglas W. Slade
Register
Ingham County Probate Ct.

David Stanifer
Director
Lenawee County
Juvenile Ct.

Gerald Supina
Judge
Ionia County Probate Ct.

Jo Ann T. Swartz
Administrator
34th Circuit Court

Linda M. Twitchell
County Clerk
Eaton County

Betty J. Walkup
Magistrate
3-1 District Court

CHIEF JUDGE/COURT ADMINISTRATOR MANUAL REVISION COMMITTEE

The Chief Judge/Court Administrator Manual Revision Committee is responsible for the update and revision of the Chief Judge/Court Administrator Manual. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Brian Matter, Chair
Administrator
22nd Circuit Court

Angelina Ballard
Magistrate
65-1 District Court

Donna Carr
County Clerk
Clare County

Robert Colombo
Judge
3rd Circuit Court

John Dowsett
Administrator
Oakland County

Jon Ferrier
Referee
Kent County

Rebecca Filip
Probation Officer
Jackson County

Daniel J. Kelly
Judge
72nd District Court

Billie Pollack
Assignment Clerk
15th Circuit Court

Michael A. Reed
Probate Register
Leelanau County

Kathryn Root
Judge
Oscoda County Probate Ct.

Norman Spisak
Probation Officer
Macomb County

Sharon Tillman
Court Mediator
18th Circuit Court

John VanSlambrouck
Administrator
1st District Court

Brian Walsworth
Friend of the Court
28th Circuit Court

Joan Young
Administrator
6th Circuit Court

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Child Support Enforcement System (CSES) Project is a statewide automated information development effort, designed to link Friend of the Court offices, Prosecuting Attorneys and IV-D agencies across the State.

The Child Support Enforcement System Advisory Committee was established to advise the State Court Administrative Office on project and system issues. The Committee is a representative, interagency group of individuals with broad responsibilities related to various components of the Michigan child support program. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Kim Bateman, Chair
Chief Assistant
Friend of the Court
Oakland County

Carol Beatty
Associate Court
Administrator
Alpena County

Louis J. Belzer
Friend of the Court
Shiawassee County

Calvin L. Bosman
Judge
20th Circuit Court

Patrick Cronin
Attorney
State Bar of Michigan

Cheryl Daum
District Supervisor
Dept. of Social Services

Doug Davidson
Data Processing Manager
Friend of the Court
Wayne County

John Goergen
Technical Director
Prosecuting Attys. Office
Lansing

Pat Harper
Business Manager
Friend of the Court
Ottawa County

Gary Arthur Hillman
Friend of the Court
Chippewa County

Gary Holik
Support Specialist
Dept. of Social Services
Tuscola County

Annette Jungck
Friend of the Court
Mecosta/Osceola
County

Ronald Kirshman
Friend of the Court
Kalamazoo County

Patrick Pearson
Asst. Project Manager
Dept. of Social Services
Office of Child Support

Marc Rodgers
Project Manager
Dept. of Social Services
Office of Child Support

Al Thomas
Business Manager
Friend of the Court
Wayne County

Russell VanderWier
Friend of the Court
Muskegon County

CIRCUIT COURT FORMS COMMITTEE

The Circuit Court Forms Committee, in collaboration with the District Court Forms Committee, is responsible for the development and revision of Michigan Court forms to comply with Michigan Court Rules and statutes and to promote uniform practices and procedures in Michigan courts. In April, 1986 the Committee created a special subcommittee to develop forms for use by litigants in divorce proceedings. The Committee worked in collaboration with the Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System and the Court of Appeals to develop forms to increase the efficiency of appointment of counsel and the processing of appellate cases. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Joan Young, Chair
Administrator
6th Circuit Court

Steven N. Andrews
Judge
6th Circuit Court

Daniel Bambery
Legal Aid of Central
Michigan
Lansing

Kent Batty
Administrator
3rd Circuit Court

Theresa Doss
Judge
36th District Court

George Hathaway
Detroit Edison Law Dept.
Detroit

William F. Hood
Judge
11th Circuit Court

Jacquelin Howie
Assignment Clerk
37th Circuit Court

Robert L. Pangle
Chief Assistant Prosecutor
Kalamazoo County

Betty Prout
County Clerk
Isabella County

Robert Smith
County Clerk
Roscommon County

JoAnn T. Swartz
Administrator
34th Circuit Court

Randy L. Tahvonen
Judge
29th Circuit Court

Al Thomas
Friend of the Court
Wayne County

Brian Walsworth
Friend of the Court
28th Circuit Court

Elda Wells
County Clerk
Mecosta County

CIRCUIT COURT SYSTEM USER PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Circuit Court System User Planning Committee was established to advise the Judicial Data Center on the development of an automated on-line record keeping and case processing system to meet the needs of Michigan Circuit Courts. The system was successfully pilot tested and implemented in the 18th Circuit Court, Bay County, in 1986. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Barbara Albertson
County Clerk
Bay County

Willie Barber
Deputy County Clerk
Roscommon County

Joan Brand
Chief Deputy Clerk
Kalkaska County

Ruth Ann Brown
Administrator
23rd Circuit Court

Lou Ann Bluntschly
County Clerk
Lenawee County

David Cable
Administrator
10th Circuit Court

Bucella Carroll
Judicial Secretary
44th Circuit Court

Michael H. Cherry
Judge
15th Circuit Court

Janet Ciesielski
Judicial Clerk
37th Circuit Clerk

Tim Class
Deputy County Clerk
St. Clair County

Faye C. Claus
County Clerk
Presque Isle County

M. Jeanne Clement
County Clerk
Montmorency County

Nancy Cunningham
Deputy County Clerk
Alpena County

Jean DeWalt
Deputy County Clerk
Eaton County

Roma Jo Dijak
County Clerk
Arenac County

Judy Elliott
County Clerk
Branch County

Therese Ellison
Administrator
5th Circuit Court

Nora Fair
Deputy County Clerk
Branch County

Kathleen Frost
Administrator
18th Circuit Court

Mary Ann Hathaway
Chief Deputy
County Clerk
14th Circuit Court

Ardis Heacock
County Clerk
Otsego County

Mary Lou Hilton
Administrative Aide
44th Circuit Court

Sondra Houlton
County Clerk
Oscoda County

Shirley Jackson
County Clerk
Van Buren County

Sally Johnson
Data Processing Director
Livingston County

Devona Jones
Deputy Court
Administrator
9th Circuit Court

JoAnne Jones
Chief Deputy Clerk
Allegan County

Karen Kane
Administrator
8th Circuit Court

Philip B. Larson
Administrator
31st Circuit Court

Imogene Leik
Administrator
33rd Circuit Court

Patricia Leppek
Deputy County Clerk
Bay County

Christine Levi
Assignment Clerk
15th Circuit Court

Beverly Lowrie
Deputy County Clerk
Crawford County

Mary Ann Marek
Assignment Clerk
51st Circuit Court

Joyce McLain
Administrator
26th Circuit Court

Anne C. Moore
County Clerk
Alcona County

Yvonne Ostrander
Deputy County Clerk
Ogemaw County

Deborah Parks
Assignment Clerk
46th Circuit Court

Judy Prokup
Deputy County Clerk
Kalkaska County

Betty Prout
County Clerk
Isabella County

Phyllis Pyke
Administrator
46th Circuit Court

Patricia Rodgers
County Clerk
Kalkaska County

Rose Rodgers
Deputy County Clerk
Lenawee County

Lawrence C. Root
Judge
49th Circuit Court

Linda Rushing
Assignment Clerk
36th Circuit Court

Donna Sawicki
Deputy County Clerk
Otsego County

Sharon Schultz
Administrative Assistant
18th Circuit Court

Bob Seelinger
Data Processing
Manager
46th Circuit Court

Russell Sill
County Clerk
Allegan County

Gail Simmons
Bookkeeper
26th Circuit Court

Blondine Smolinski
Deputy County Clerk
Alpena County

Cheryl Stephens
Admin. Assistant
23rd Circuit Court

JoAnn T. Swartz
Administrator
34th Circuit Court

Sue Szymanski
Assignment Clerk
26th Circuit Court

Randy L. Tahvonen
Judge
29th Circuit Court

David Teggerdine
Deputy County Clerk
Livingston County

Linda Tober
Deputy County Clerk
Bay County

Linda Twitchell
County Clerk
Eaton County

Elizabeth H. Wieland
County Clerk
Crawford County

Annabelle Wilder
County Clerk
Alpena County

Dorothy Wunderlich
County Clerk
Leelanau County

COURT REPORTING AND RECORDING BOARD OF REVIEW

The Michigan Court Reporting and Recording Board of Review, as prescribed by Michigan Court Rule, was composed in 1987 of one Court of Appeals judge, three trial judges, two court reporters, two court recorders, one attorney, and a Board secretary assigned from the staff of the State Court Administrative Office. The Board administers certification examinations for court reporters and recorders semi-annually. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Board in 1987 include:

Myron H. Wahls, Chair
Judge
Michigan Court of Appeals

Janell I. Bates
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Spaniolo & Lundquist

Calvin L. Bosman
Judge
20th Circuit Court

Nancy E. Gass
Certified Electronic Recorder
Jackson

Rosalind Lemon
Certified Electronic Recorder
Kalamazoo County
Probate Ct.

John Nussbaumer
Attorney
Cooley Law School

Dr. William C. Oliver
Chief Circuit Reporter
3rd Circuit Court

Marvin E. Robertson
Judge
Clinton County Probate Ct.

Daniel Sawicki
Judge
44th District Court

COURT REPORTERS AND RECORDERS MANUAL REVISION COMMITTEE

The Court Reporters and Recorders Manual Revision Committee is responsible for the update and revision of the Court Reporters and Recorders Manual. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Task Force in 1987 include:

Zoe S. Burkholz
Judge
2nd Circuit Court

Barbara Consilio
Administrator
Oakland County
Probate Ct.

Dr. Richard Featheringham
Educator
Central Michigan
University

Donna K. Gillson
Administrator
64B District Court

DeVona Jones
Administrator
9th Circuit Court

Richard Kendzierski
Certified Shorthand
Reporter
3rd Circuit Court

Virgil Kesler, Chair
Educator
Ferris State University

Raymond King
Judge
Ogemaw County
Probate Ct.

Ilona Dittmar Tabbey
Certified Electronic
Reporter
20th District Court

Carolyn Worden
Technical Assistant
Michigan Court of Appeals

DISTRICT COURT FORMS COMMITTEE

The District Court Forms Committee, in collaboration with the Circuit Court Forms Committee, is responsible for the development and revision of Michigan Court forms to comply with the Michigan Court Rules and statutes and to promote uniform practices and procedures in Michigan courts. In addition, the Committee developed and revised several forms for exclusive use in the district courts. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

S. J. Elden, Chair
Judge
15th District Court

Jack R. Jelsema
Judge
62A District Court

Tom Poole
Chief Deputy Administrator
36th District Court

Donald L. Sanderson
Judge
2-2 District Court

Carol Conklin
Administrator
53rd District Court

Gloria Johnson
Administrator
36th District Court

Dave Recher
Administrator
3-2 District Court

Joseph Sebenick
Magistrate
54B District Court

Gary M. Gabry
Prosecuting Attorney
Ionia County

Brian Matter
Administrator
22nd Circuit Court

Ed Rinn
Administrator
75th District Court

Robin Waechtler
Probation Officer
56-2 District Court

DISTRICT COURT SYSTEMS USER COMMITTEE

The District Court Systems User Committee advises the State Court Administrative Office's Judicial Data Center regarding modifications and enhancements to the District Court system and development of new services. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Bart Barnes
Clerk/Administrator
66th District Court

Marion Belding
Clerk/Administrator
35th District Court

Frank Blomgren
Supervisor, Court Liason &
Special Services Division
Michigan Dept. of State

Shirley Chaffee
Clerk/Administrator
51st District Court

Lawrence Chastang
Clerk/Administrator
22nd District Court

Ruth Cook
Clerk/Administrator
24th District Court

Sandra Crowley
Clerk/Administrator
12th District Court

Judith DeKeyser
Clerk/Administrator
32A District Court

David Dinkelman
Clerk/Administrator
2-2 District Court

Dona Gillson
Clerk/Administrator
64B District Court

Kirby Goodwin
Clerk/Administrator
57th District Court

Doris Hanulcik
Clerk/Administrator
64A District Court

Anthony Hufnagle
Clerk/Administrator
65-2 District Court

John Jacobs
Clerk/Administrator
41A District Court

LaVonne Johnson
Clerk/Administrator
62A District Court

A.L. Kirschenbauer
Court Administrator
54A District Court

Irene Krueger
Clerk/Administrator
28th District Court

Gary Lough
Magistrate
77th District Court

Peggy McBride
Court Administrator
41B District Court

Joseph McCarthy
Clerk/Administrator
72nd District Court

Robert McDonald
Clerk/Administrator
76th District Court

Joseph Mysliwiec
Clerk/Administrator
16th District Court

Mary Ellen Nygren
Assistant Court
Administrator
53rd District Court

David Points
Clerk/Administrator
30th District Court

Ramona Plummer
Clerk/Administrator
2-1 District Court

Michael Ramsey
Chief Deputy Clerk
54A District Court

Bob Randolph
Clerk/Administrator
15th District Court

David Recher
Clerk/Administrator
3rd District Court

Edward Rinn
Clerk/Administrator
75th District Court

Norman Rushing
Clerk/Administrator
25th District Court

Don Sherburne
Clerk/Administrator
8th District Court

Karen Strevel
Clerk/Administrator
68th District Court

Kevin Sutherland
Clerk/Administrator
44th District Court

John VanSlambrouck
Clerk/Administrator
1st District Court

Mary Ann Watts
Clerk/Administrator
52-4 District Court

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Foster Care Review Board Advisory Committee was appointed by the State Court Administrator to consult with program staff regarding policies and procedures affecting the Foster Care Review Board Program. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Appointed Members

Arnie Boezaart, Chair
Program Manager
Muskegon County

Eleanor Austin, Vice Chair
Director of Court Services
Wayne County

John Cole
Program Manager
Kent County

Lisa M. Kaichen
Director
Children's Charter
of Michigan

Tom H. Linck
Judge
Muskegon County
Probate Ct.

Frank Marella
Administrator
Macomb County
Probate Ct.

Charles Ojeda
Public Member
Adrian

Jean Porter
Child Advocate
Dept. of Social Services
Wayne County

Charles Rubel
Director
Child & Family Services
Berrien County

Linda Coleman Shirkey
Director
Child & Family Services
Dept. of Social Services

Linda Stankwitz
Vista Maria
Dearborn Heights

Wilma Tays
Program Specialist
Kalamazoo County
Probate Ct.

Local Board Representatives - Out County

Carol Bennett
Kent County

Karna Doyle
Washtenaw County

Janet Dancer
Kalamazoo County

Dr. William Rawlings
Lenawee County

Billy R. Scott
Muskegon County

Local Board Representatives - Wayne County

Charleana N.H. Allen
Board #6

Lillian Bernstein
Board #1

J. Davis
Board #7

Annette-Marie Govan
Board #5

Andrew W. Robinson, Sr.
Board #4

Donna Welborn
Board #3

Linda C. Williams
Board #2

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS

The Foster Care Review Board Program was established by 1980 PA 376 as a pilot project administered by the State Court Administrative Office. This program creates citizen review boards to review individual neglect and abuse cases within the foster care system to assist the court in ensuring prompt and permanent child placement. The program was continued and expanded by 1986 PA 159. Currently, seven review boards exist in Wayne County and a single review board exists in Kalamazoo, Kent, Lenawee, Muskegon, and Washtenaw Counties. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Kalamazoo County

Patrick Buckley, Chair
Portage

Janet Dancer
Kalamazoo

Mary Morris
Kalamazoo

Diane Schrock
Kalamazoo

Joe Todd
Kalamazoo

Kent County

Richard Tormala, Chair
Grand Rapids

Carol Bennett
Grand Rapids

Sue Blandford
Grand Rapids

Marie Boersma
Grand Rapids

Debra Gaffney
Cedar Springs

Daniel Groce
Grand Rapids

Lenawee County

Bonnie Mason, Chair
Adrian

Constance Farver
Adrian

Charles Ojeda
Adrian

Bill Rawlings
Adrian

Cynthia Witt
Clayton

Muskegon County

Billy R. Scott, Chair
Muskegon

Barbara Beckering
Muskegon

Dale Horn
Muskegon

Donna Mattzela
Muskegon

Beverly Ofloy
Twin Lake

Frank Scott
Muskegon

Washtenaw County

Karna Doyle, Chair
Ypsilanti

Suzanne Cherrington
Ann Arbor

George E. Foltz
Ann Arbor

Janie Jones
Ypsilanti

David Kubany
Ann Arbor

Hazel Turner
Ann Arbor

Wayne County

Board Number One

Mildred White, Chair
Detroit

Lillian Bernstein
Detroit

Willa M. Tye
Detroit

Rowena Whitmore
Detroit

Martha Wimbush
Detroit

Board Number Two

Linda C. Williams, Chair
Detroit

Alvin Bowman
Detroit

Loretta Curtis
Detroit

Dolores Edwards
Detroit

Joel Katz
Hamtramck

Board Number Three

June L. Adkins, Chair
Detroit

Kathy Cornish
Detroit

Albert Sanders
Detroit

Marguerite Tolson
Detroit

Donna Welborn
Detroit

Board Number Four

Rita Smythe, Chair
Grosse Pointe Farms

Isaac H. Dansby
Detroit

Linda L. Myler
Detroit

Andrew W. Robinson, Sr.
Detroit

Board Number Five

Sharon Miller, Chair
Detroit

Emily Dunn
Detroit

Vincent Givhan
Detroit

Annette-Marie Govan
Detroit

Beatrice Paige
Detroit

Karen Sumpter
Detroit

Board Number Six

Carole Quarterman, Chair
Detroit

Charleana N.H. Allen
Detroit

Letha Denton
Grosse Pointe Farms

Cynthia Howell
Detroit

Alice L. James
Detroit

May Polk
Detroit

Board Number Seven

Cornelia Carson, Chair
Detroit

J. Davis
Detroit

Yvonne Posey Gilchrist
Detroit

Bernice Henderson
Detroit

Tommie Summerville
Detroit

Alternates

Elizabeth Stucki
Dearborn Heights

FRIEND OF THE COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The State Court Administrative Office established a nine-person advisory committee to advise the Friend of the Court Bureau in the performance of its duties as established by the Friend of the Court Act (MCL 552.501 et seq.). The statute provides that this Committee shall have three public members who have had contact with an office of the Friend of the Court, three attorneys who are members of the State Bar of Michigan and whose practices are primarily in domestic relations law, and three human service professionals who provide family counseling. Two local Friends of the Court are appointed and serve as non-voting members. Some members served partial terms. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Edward D. Gold, Chair
Attorney Member

Rita M. Boyer
Public Member

Izetta Bright
Attorney Member

Charles Burkholder
Professional Member

Leslie Campbell
Public Member

Paul J. Clulo
Attorney Member

Jelane Hamper
Friend of the Court Member

Mary Herr
Attorney Member

Patti Holden
Public Member

Ronald E. Machnik
Friend of the Court Member

Joan Walker
Professional Member

Maxine G. Walton
Professional Member

Phyllis Waltz
Professional Member

Kent S. Wilcox
Public Member

CHILD SUPPORT GUIDELINE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Friend of the Court Advisory Committee recommended a Child Support Guideline in December, 1986 which was adopted by the State Court Administrator, and implemented in May of 1987. The committee appointed a Standing Child Support Guideline Subcommittee to review comments and to make recommendations for the periodic update of the Child Support Guideline. The Chairperson of the Friend of the Court Advisory Committee appointed the following individuals to this Subcommittee:

Paul J. Clulo, Chair

Terry K. Adams

Scott Bassett

Mary Herr

Patti Holden

Ronald E. Machnik

Denise Walen

Kent Wilcox

FRIEND OF THE COURT FORMS COMMITTEE

The Friend of the Court Forms Committee is responsible for the development and revision of Friend of the Court forms to comply with the Michigan Court Rules and federal and state statutes. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Brian Walsworth, Chair
Friend of the Court
28th Circuit Court

Eileen Derragon
Friend of the Court
Ingham County

Patricia Harper
Friend of the Court
Ottawa County

Phyllis Pyke
Administrator
46th Circuit Court

James P. Ryan
Attorney
Plymouth

Gene Schnelz
Judge
6th Circuit Court

Al Thomas
Friend of the Court
Wayne County

Ann Wieber
Office of Child Support
Dept. Of Social Services

JUVENILE COURT FORMS COMMITTEE

The Juvenile Court Forms Committee is responsible for the development and revision of Juvenile Court forms to comply with the Michigan Court Rules and statutes and to promote uniform practices and procedures in Michigan courts. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

H. E. Phillipson, Jr., Chair
Judge
Cass County Probate Ct.

Michael J. Anderegg
Judge
Marquette County
Probate Ct.

Eleanor Austin
Director
Juvenile Division
Wayne County
Probate Ct.

Deborah J. Campbell
Probate Register
Charlevoix County
Probate Ct.

John Dowsett
Administrator
Oakland County
Probate Ct.

William Fox
Office of Child & Youth
Services
Dept. of Social Services

Randall J. Hekman
Judge
Kent County Probate Ct.

Roger Likkel
Administrator
Calhoun County
Probate Ct.

David Stanifer
Administrator
Lenawee County
Probate Ct.

PROBATE COURT FORMS COMMITTEE

The Probate Court Forms Committee is responsible for the development and revision of Probate Court forms to comply with the Michigan Court Rules and statutes and to promote uniform practices and procedures in Michigan courts. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Gerald J. Supina, Chair
Judge
Ionia County
Probate Ct.

Phillip E. Harter
Judge
Calhoun County
Probate Ct.

Robert Nida
Administrator
Barry County
Probate Ct.

Roger M. Parrish
Bureau of Community
Residential Services
Dept. of Mental Health

Grace Rudd
Probate Register
Grand Traverse County
Probate Ct.

Wendell Schoder
Attorney
Battle Creek

Douglas Slade
Probate Register
Ingham County
Probate Ct.

Jack VandeBunte
Judge
Ottawa County
Probate Ct.

Eleanore Walentowicz
Probate Register
Macomb County
Probate Ct.

Lorraine Weber
Administrator
Wayne County
Probate Ct.

PROBATE COURT SYSTEM USER COMMITTEE

The Probate Court System User Committee advises the State Court Administrative Office's Judicial Data Center regarding modifications and enhancements to probate court systems. The Committee was expanded in 1987 to include the microcomputer system users, distributive users as well as the on-line systems users. The name was changed from Probate Court On-Line System User Committee to reflect this expansion and new members were added. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Doris Barnes
Probate Register
Sanilac County
Probate Ct.

Ester Brown
Probate Register
Livingston County
Probate Ct.

Connie Basler
Deputy Register
Sanilac County
Probate Ct.

Karl Beysiegel
Probation Officer
Calhoun County
Probate Ct.

Shirley Caruso
Probate Register
Bay County Probate Ct.

Hugh Dean
Probate Register
Oakland County
Probate Ct.

John Dowsett
Director
Oakland County
Juvenile Ct.

Linda Hays
Probate Register
Allegan County
Probate Ct.

Mary Alice Irish
Probate Register
Lapeer County
Probate Ct.

John Kinkema
Probate Register
Bay County
Probate Ct.

Roger Likkel
Juvenile Director
Calhoun County
Probate Ct.

Clara Molby
Probate Register
Montcalm County
Probate Ct.

Margaret Pleasant
Probate Register
Genesee County
Probate Ct.

Chris Pretzer
Computer Supervisor
Macomb County
Probate Ct.

Curtis St. John
Admin. Assistant
Genesee County
Probate Ct.

Janet Schmidt
Probate Register
Washtenaw County
Probate Ct.

Helen Sojka
Deputy Register
Washtenaw County
Probate Ct.

Sharon Teasley
Court Executive
Wayne County
Probate Ct.

Eleanore Walentowicz
Register
Macomb County
Probate Ct.

Velma Weston
Chief Deputy Register
Calhoun County
Probate Ct.

PROBATE COURT JUVENILE SYSTEM USER COMMITTEE

The Probate Court Juvenile System User Committee was established in 1986 to advise the State Court Administrative Office's Judicial Data Center regarding modifications and enhancements to juvenile court systems. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Ron Crump
Director
Information Services
Wayne County Probate Ct.

Margaret Dailey
Court Recorder
Lapeer County

John Dowsett
Manager
Legal Processing
Oakland County
Probate Ct.

Judy Harding
Probate Register
Sanilac County Juvenile Ct.

Mary Kaye
Office Manager
Genesee County
Probate Ct.

John Kinkema
Probate Register
Bay County Probate Ct.

Roger Likkel
Juvenile Director
Calhoun County Probate Ct.

Mary Nicholson
Systems Analyst
Wayne County
Juvenile Ct.

Curtis St. John
Administrative Asst.
Genesee County
Probate Ct.

Betty Truax
Director
Allegan County Juvenile Ct.

VeRonica Washington
Administrator
Washtenaw County
Probate Ct.

PROBATE COURT TASK FORCE

The Probate Court Task Force was established by the Supreme Court in May, 1986 under the supervision of Chief Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley. The task force was charged with looking at the role and structure of the juvenile justice system in Michigan and to determine the appropriate roles and functions of the juvenile court in the delivery of service to children and families.

The Task Force issued a final report to the Supreme Court in April, 1987. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Task Force in 1987 include:

Dorothy Comstock Riley
Chief Justice
Supreme Court

Raymond L. King, Chair
Judge
Ogemaw County
Probate Court

Lt. Jack Shepherd
Vice Chair
Michigan State Police
East Lansing

C. Patrick Babcock
Director
Dept. of Social Services

Y. Gladys Barsamian
Judge
Wayne County
Probate Ct.

John M. Brundage
Judge
Calhoun County
Probate Ct.

James S. Casey
Judge
Kalamazoo County
Probate Ct.

Donald N. Duquette
Director
Child Advocacy
Law Clinic
University of Michigan
Law School

Harold W. Dyer
Administrator
Kalamazoo County
Probate Ct.

Gerald G. Hicks
Executive Director
Michigan Federation of
Private Child and Family
Agencies

Lisa M. Kaichen
Executive Director
Childrens' Charter of
Michigan

Roger Lewis
Office of Child and
Youth Services
Dept. of Social Services

Dr. Agnes Mansour
Executive Advisor
Mercy Health Services

Samuel E. McCargo
Commissioner
State Bar of Michigan

Eugene Arthur Moore
Judge
Oakland County
Probate Ct.

Kenneth E. Prather
Ex-Officio Member
Family Law Section
State Bar of Michigan

Ronald P. Schigur
Assistant Prosecutor
Wayne County
Probate Ct.

David L. Stanifer
Administrator
Lenawee County
Probate Ct.

Paul VanderVelde
Director
Children's Policy and
Standards Division
Dept. of Mental Health

SENTENCING GUIDELINES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Sentencing Guidelines Advisory Committee was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to oversee the development, testing, and revision of sentencing guidelines. In 1986, the Committee continued its review of the use of the guidelines and made revisions as needed to the guidelines. Members of the Michigan judiciary who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

Michael F. Cavanagh
Supervising Justice
Michigan Supreme Court

Robert A. Benson
Judge
17th Circuit Court

Robert L. Evans
Judge
Recorder's Court

Hilda R. Gage
Judge
6th Circuit Court

Michael G. Harrison
Judge
30th Circuit Court

William A. Porter
Judge
46th Circuit Court

TASK FORCE ON GENDER ISSUES IN THE COURTS

The Gender Issues Task Force was created through the active involvement of many members of the community. A report of the Michigan Supreme Court Citizen's Commission to Improve Michigan Courts, issued in 1986, found that a significant and disturbing perception exists that individuals are treated differently in the Michigan court system because of their gender and that such treatment results in negative consequences to both women and men. The Supreme Court responded by appointing the Task Force on Gender Issues in the Courts in the fall of 1987. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Task Force in 1987 include:

Julia D. Darlow, Chair
Attorney
Detroit

Marianne O. Battani
Judge
3rd Circuit Court

Joel M. Boyden
Attorney
Grand Rapids

William D. Camden
Friend of the Court
17th Circuit Court

Ann Cooper
Attorney
Grand Rapids

Dr. Bernadine Denning
Detroit

Michael Franck
Attorney
Lansing

James C. Kingsley
Judge
37th Circuit Court

Sister Monica Kostielney
Michigan Catholic
Conference
Lansing

Roger J. LaRose
Judge
32A District Court

Denise J. Lewis
Attorney
Detroit

Barbara B. MacKenzie
Judge
Court of Appeals

Helen P. Mickens
Thomas Cooley Law School
Lansing

Patricia L. Micklow
Judge
96th District Court

Joseph F. Mysliwiec
District Court
Administrator
16th District Court

Grace A. Rudd
Probate Register
Grand Traverse County
Court

Robert B. Webster
Attorney
Birmingham

Carolyn H. Williams
Judge
Kalamazoo County
Probate Ct.

Joan E. Young
Circuit Court Administrator
6th Circuit Court

TASK FORCE ON RACIAL/ETHNIC ISSUES IN THE COURTS

The Task Force on Racial/Ethnic Issues in the courts was created as a result of the report of the Michigan Supreme Court Citizen's Commission to Improve Michigan Courts. Included in this report was a finding that a significant and disturbing perception exists that individuals are treated differently in the Michigan court system because of their race or ethnic origin and that such treatment results in negative consequences to the affected groups. Recognizing that actual bias and the perception of bias are severely damaging to the courts, the Commission recommended immediate implementation of a research program. The Supreme Court appointed the Task Force on Racial/Ethnic Issues in the Courts in the fall of 1987 to review these issues. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Task Force in 1987 include:

Harold Hood, Chair
Judge
Michigan Court of Appeals

Michael Berry
Attorney
Detroit

David Cable
Circuit Court
Administrator
10th Circuit Court

Barbara Consilio
Probate Register
Oakland County Probate Ct.

Larry Crawford, D.D.S.
Saginaw

Geraldine Bledsoe Ford
Judge
Recorder's Court

Deborah J. Gaskin
Attorney
Detroit

Dr. Rosalind Griffin
Psychiatrist
Southfield

Alphonso Harper
Judicial Assistant
Recorder's Court

Benjamin H. Logan
Attorney
Grand Rapids

Samual E. McCargo
Attorney
Detroit

Eugene Mossner
Attorney
Saginaw

Josef R. Soper
Clerk/Administrator
61st District Court

Cynthia D. Stephens
Judge
3rd Circuit Court

S. Martin Taylor
New Detroit, Inc.
Detroit

George J. Theut
Judge
Mackinac County
Probate Ct.

Isidore B. Torres
Judge
Recorder's Court

Gary Walker
Prosecuting Attorney
Marquette County

Valdemar Washington
Judge
7th Circuit Court

TASK FORCE ON REPORTING TRAFFIC-RELATED OFFENSES

In 1986, the Auditor General's Office reviewed the offense record system as it relates to maintaining timely data on traffic offenses. In January, 1987 the State Court Administrator, with close cooperation of the Secretary of State, appointed the 27-member Task Force on Reporting Traffic-Related Offenses.

In April, 1987 the task force submitted its proposals to address the Auditor General's recommendations. On April 27, 1987, legislation was introduced to implement the task force recommendations. Local court representatives and other professionals who served on the Committee in 1987 include:

M. Richard Knoblock, Chair
52nd Circuit Court
Huron County

Circuit Court Committee:

Ronald H. Pannucci, Chair
14th Circuit Court
Muskegon County

Gene Schnelz
6th Circuit Court
Oakland County

G. Michael Hocking
Prosecuting Attorney
Eaton County

David Cable
Administrator
Saginaw County

K. Kent Batty
Administrator
Wayne County

Lynn Allen
County Clerk
Oakland County

Nyle B. Erskin
County Clerk
Montcalm County

Janet Ciesielski
Assignment Clerk
Calhoun County

Ann Snoblen
Assignment Clerk
Lapeer County

David Teggerdine
Deputy County Clerk
Livingston County

District Court Committee:

Thomas G. Smith, Chair
18th District Court
Wayne County

Lylse G. Hall
12th District Court
Jackson County

John R. Perry
36th District Court
Wayne County

Donald E. Martin
Prosecuting Attorney
Ingham County

Phillip Boes
Administrator
Bay County

Kevin Sutherland
Administrator
Oakland County

John Van Slambrouck
Administrator
Monroe County

Dorothea Crocker
Magistrate
Berrien County

Anthony Hufnagel
Magistrate
Ingham County

Probate Court Committee:

W. Wallace Kent, Jr. Chair
Judge
Tuscola County
Probate Ct.

Marvin Robertson
Judge
Clinton County
Probate Ct.

E. Reilly Wilson
Assistant Prosecutor
Wayne County

Clara Molby
Probate Register
Montcalm County

Linda Backus
Probate Register
Osceola County

Margaret Pleasant
Probate Register
Genesee County

TASK FORCE ON REPORTING TRAFFIC-RELATED OFFENSES, CONTINUED

Monte Starkweather
Administrator
Ionia County
Probate Ct.

Robert T. Vesey
Administrator
Van Buren County
Probate Ct.

Members at Large:

William Van Regenmorter
Representative
55th District

Sgt. Wayne A. Wolf
Sheriff's Department
Wayne County

Bruce Timmons
Attorney
Lansing

Kenneth Smiley
Certified Public Accountant
Office of the Auditor
General

Mona L. Young
Farmers Insurance
Group

Gerald Basch
Automobile Club
of Michigan

Michigan
Appellate Assigned
Counsel System

Appellate Defender Commission Members

William R. Walsh, Jr., Attorney
Chair
Appointed by the Michigan
Supreme Court
Term expires May 24, 1991

John C. Emery, Jr., Attorney
Appointed by the
State Bar of Michigan
Term Expires May 24, 1991

Beatrice P. Millender, Law Student
Appointed by the Governor
Term Expires May 24, 1988

John E. S. Scott, Attorney
Appointed by the
State Bar of Michigan
Term Expires May 24, 1991

Ronald L. Dzierbicki, Chief Clerk
Michigan Court of Appeals
Appointed by the Michigan Court
of Appeals
Term Expires May 24, 1990

Janet E. Finlater, Associate Professor
Appointed by the Michigan
Supreme Court
Term Expires May 24, 1991

Richard E. Robinson, Retired Judge
Appointed by the Circuit
Judges Association
Term Expires May 24, 1989

Vesta Svenson, Magistrate
Appointed by the Michigan
Supreme Court
Term Expired May 24, 1987

Barbara R. Levine
Administrator
Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System
Hollister Building, Suite 365
106 W. Allegan
Lansing, MI 48913

MICHIGAN APPELLATE ASSIGNED COUNSEL SYSTEM

The Appellate Defender Commission is mandated by statute to develop a statewide indigent appellate defense system which includes the services of both the State Appellate Defender Office (SADO) and private assigned counsel [MCL 780.712; MSA 28.1114(102)]. The Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System (MAACS), directed by Administrator Barbara Levine, was created to help fulfill that mandate.

Although 75% of all indigent felony appeals are handled by private assigned counsel, until the advent of MAACS, no uniform statewide method of qualifying and selecting those attorneys existed. Each jurisdiction had its own method of appointing appellate counsel and of paying them from county funds. The result was wide disparity in the quality of representation.

The statute requires the Commission to compile and keep current a statewide roster of attorneys eligible for and willing to accept appointment as criminal appellate defense counsel, and to provide continuing legal education for those attorneys. MAACS is the administrative office which screens the qualifications of attorneys seeking to join the statewide roster, compiles lists for Circuit courts and Recorder's Court, provides training programs and resource materials to roster attorneys, and monitors compliance with the Minimum Standards for Indigent Criminal Appellate Defense Services approved by the Michigan Supreme Court.

Pursuant to its statutory mandate to develop a comprehensive service delivery system, the Commission has adopted regulations designed to insure that appellate assignments are fairly distributed among qualified lawyers and that private assigned counsel remain professionally independent. MAACS monitors the process by which appellate counsel are selected in each jurisdiction, the distribution of cases among private counsel, and the allocation of cases between private counsel and SADO.

MAACS also opens manual and computer files for each appeal assigned to private counsel. Individually, the case files permit accurate responses to inquiries about particular cases or about the performance of roster attorneys. Collectively, the files provide a source of centralized data about appellate assignments.

Activities

The new appellate assignment system became effective on December 2, 1985. By the end of 1986, fifty of fifty-six jurisdictions were selecting appellate counsel according to the rotation method described in the MAACS regulations. No circuit any longer used the contract method of assigning all of its appeals to a single attorney for a set annual fee. The services of SADO were more evenly distributed among the counties than they had ever been.

Presently there are 371 attorneys on the statewide roster. No circuit has too few lawyers to handle its appeals or is without attorneys qualified to handle its more serious cases.

To advance its overall goal of improving the quality of representation provided to indigent defendants on appeal, MAACS uses three primary methods. First, it attempts to enhance the ability of roster attorneys to serve their clients by providing training programs and reference materials. Each attorney who joins the roster receives, free of charge, a two-volume appellate practice and procedure manual published by SADO. Every inexperienced roster applicant must complete a two-day orientation training program which is offered semi-annually.

MAACS has developed advanced training sessions with funding from the Michigan Justice Training Fund. Each spring and fall, a new one-day program is presented at four locations around the state. In addition, a series of single topic reference manuals, convenient for research use by both novice and experienced appellate practitioners, is being published at the rate of three per year.

Second, MAACS attempts to ensure that roster attorneys are qualified to handle the particular cases assigned to them through classification of the more experienced lawyers. In 1987, the Commission converted the original two-level attorney eligibility scheme into a three-level scheme which better accounts for the nature of an attorney's experience, e.g., whether prior appeals involved trials or guilty pleas. The revised regulations also require MAACS to review the substance of attorneys' prior appellate work, so that roster members are not blindly classified on the quantity of their experience, without regard to its quality.

Third, MAACS promotes compliance with the Minimum Standards by responding to inquiries from attorneys, clients, and third parties. MAACS provides advice to roster members who are unsure what the Standards require in particular situations. MAACS investigates allegations of attorney noncompliance with the Standards made by clients, courts and, on occasion, opposing counsel. An attorney who substantially violates the Minimum Standards may be removed from the roster.

Another of MAACS' major activities is data collection. Because appellate counsel are appointed and paid at the trial court level, centralized information-gathering by MAACS is critical to developing a comprehensive statewide perspective. Many appellate assignments do not result in Court of Appeals files being opened because the cases are disposed of in the trial court. Moreover, the Court of Appeals does not collect data about some matters which affect the quality and total cost of indigent appellate defense representation, such as client visits, attorney hours worked, fees and expenses.

To promote the collection of accurate data, MAACS has worked with the State Court Administrative Office to develop new forms, including a new order for appellate appointments and a standardized fee voucher. The use of uniform vouchers by all appellate assigned counsel in all circuits is meant to be convenient for both the lawyers who prepare them, and the judges and trial court personnel who must review them. More importantly, the vouchers reflect the hours worked at various tasks, the amount of payment requested, and the amount actually received. When sufficient data has been accumulated by MAACS, they will provide the basis for making accurate projections about the statewide costs of appellate assigned counsel fees. The vouchers will also facilitate the development of payment guidelines for particular types of cases so that requests for payment can be assessed for reasonableness.

Workload Analysis

The MAACS staff currently consists of an administrator and deputy administrator, both of whom are experienced appellate attorneys; an administrative assistant; a records manager; a secretary; and a part-time file clerk. The workload falls primarily into six areas.

Maintaining Attorney Roster - Attorneys can join or leave both the statewide roster and particular local lists virtually at will. Movement on and off both occurs regularly. For instance, while the roster averages 370 members at any given time, 120 attorneys have joined and then left it during its first two years.

Maintaining the roster involves several steps. When an application is determined to be complete, the lawyer is classified as Level I, II, or III. The trial courts whose lists the lawyer wishes to join are notified. The lawyer receives confirmation and various reference materials. Thereafter, the appropriate trial courts are notified when the lawyer's address, level or membership status changes.

Monitoring Assignment Process - Each trial court forwards copies of its petitions for appellate counsel and orders of appointment to MAACS. Each court also supplies a monthly log sheet which reflects the order in which cases were distributed to roster attorneys and to SADO.

In 1987, appellate counsel was assigned in 3,831 cases (each original order is counted as one case, regardless of subsequent substitutions of counsel). This figure represents a 5.6% increase over 1986. Of the total, 840 cases (22%) were assigned to SADO.

Maintaining Case Files - The orders and petitions supplied by the trial court are used by MAACS to open individual case files. Briefs and fee vouchers, which roster attorneys are required to supply, are added to the files thereafter, as is any correspondence regarding the case. To avoid duplication of effort in recording case information, additional data is obtained as needed from the Court of Appeals.

Training and Resource Development - The development of training programs and publications constitutes a significant part of the MAACS workload. Substantial time is required for program planning and presentation. Much additional time is invested in the publication of reference manuals, in the belief that a lawyer's ability to provide competent appellate representation is greatly increased by the ready availability of research tools. These manuals are supplied free of charge to roster attorneys and SADO staff attorneys.

Substantive Performance Review - At the core of MAACS' functions lies evaluation of the representation being provided by roster attorneys to their indigent clients. The ability to conduct meaningful performance review now exists with the creation of a deputy administrator's position.

No attempt is made to monitor the performance of every attorney in every case. Evaluation occurs in two ways. Complaints about the conduct of roster attorneys in individual cases are formally investigated. If it appears that the conduct may be part of an identifiable pattern, the attorney's other assigned appeals are reviewed as well. Absent any complaint, a sample of each attorney's work will be reviewed in the process of determining eligibility for classification at Levels II and III.

Data Collection and Analysis - Information from orders of appointment, briefs, and fee vouchers in every appeal assigned to private counsel is entered into computer files. The data base is developing gradually, as trial court personnel and roster attorneys submit the requisite documentation to MAACS. The need to develop computer programs for processing the data remains. Therefore, detailed information about the types of cases being appealed, the number of attorney hours devoted to each type, and the costs involved is not yet available.

Goals

The Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System's goals are to ensure that only qualified attorneys receive appellate appointments, that appointments are fairly distributed pursuant to objective criteria, and that the ability of private counsel to provide competent appellate representation is enhanced. As a new and very small agency, MAACS has a long way to go before those goals will be met.

The highest priority for 1988 is evaluating attorney performance. After working through a backlog of client correspondence, the deputy administrator will undertake a systematic review of the work of all roster attorneys who have been preliminarily classified at Levels II and III.

A second high priority is to improve data collection and analysis techniques. This is particularly desirable in regard to assigned counsel costs, so that realistic assessments of the cost of state-funding can be made.

Michigan Attorney Discipline Board

Michigan Attorney Discipline Board

Martin M. Doctoroff, Attorney
Appointed by the
State Bar of Michigan
Term Expires September 30, 1990

Hanley M. Gurwin, Attorney
Appointed by the
State Bar of Michigan
Term Expires September 30, 1988

Patrick J. Keating, Attorney
Appointed by the Michigan
Supreme Court
Term Expires September 30, 1989

Charles C. Vincent, M.D.
Appointed by the Michigan
Supreme Court
Term Expires September 30, 1988

Remona A. Green, Attorney
Appointed by the Michigan
Supreme Court
Term Expires September 30, 1988

Robert S. Harrison, Attorney
Appointed by the Michigan
Supreme Court
Term Expires September 30, 1990

Odessa Komer
Appointed by the Michigan
Supreme Court
Term Expires June 19, 1987

Theodore P. Zegouras
Appointed by the Michigan
Supreme Court
Term Expires September 30, 1990

John F. Van Bolt
Executive Director
Attorney Discipline Board
333 W. Fort Street
Suite 1260
Detroit, MI 48226

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE BOARD

The Michigan Attorney Discipline Board was created by the Michigan Supreme Court through an amendment to the Michigan General Court Rules adding Chapter 95, effective October 1, 1978. Current rules governing the Attorney Discipline Board include MCR 9.101 et. seq. The Discipline Board is the adjudicative arm of the Supreme Court for the discharge of its constitutional responsibility to supervise and discipline Michigan attorneys.

The Attorney Discipline Board consists of seven members who serve without compensation and are appointed as follows: three lawyers appointed by the Supreme Court; two public members (non-lawyers) appointed by the Supreme Court; and two lawyers appointed by the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar of Michigan. The members are appointed to a term of three years and a member may not serve more than two full terms.

The Discipline Board elects officers each year for a term coinciding with the fiscal year, October 1 through September 30. Serving as officers for terms which ended September 30, 1987 were Chairperson Martin M. Doctoroff; Vice-Chairperson Robert S. Harrison, and Secretary Charles C. Vincent, M.D. In addition to Executive Director/General Counsel John F. VanBolt, the Board's full-time staff consists of Susan C. Lindeman, Secretary/Office Manager and Janine A. Tomasello, Secretary/Clerk.

The Discipline Board role in disciplinary proceedings begins only after a grievance has been investigated by the Grievance Administrator and approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission for the filing of a formal complaint with the Board. Grievances against attorneys are confidential during the investigation stage; however, the formal complaint, pleadings, hearing transcript, and orders are a matter of public record. All hearings conducted by the Attorney Discipline Board and its hearing panels are open to the public.

Approximately 300 Michigan attorneys, appointed by the Discipline Board, serve as volunteers on the three-member hearing panels which constitute the trial level of Michigan's discipline system. During 1987, the Board appointed approximately fifty new hearing panel members in response to its increasing case load. A deliberate effort was made to increase the participation of women and minorities in the discipline process. During 1987, the Board's hearing panels conducted 216 public hearings. Of those hearings, 113 hearings were held at the Board's hearing room in Detroit and 103 hearings were conducted in other locations throughout the State of Michigan.

The hearing panels of the Attorney Discipline Board may enter orders of dismissal, reprimand, suspension for a stated period of time, or revocation of license (commonly referred to as disbarment). Discipline orders include assessment of a portion of the costs incurred by the Grievance Commission and Discipline Board.

The Hearing Panels may, under a rule effective February 3, 1981, place an attorney on probation with certain conditions such as temporary supervision by another attorney or rehabilitative therapy. To qualify for probation the attorney must affirmatively demonstrate that physical or psychological impairment susceptible to treatment was the cause of the misconduct alleged.

Appeals from hearing panel decisions are heard by the Board as a matter of right and are based upon the record made before the hearing panel. Appeals from a decision of the Board may be pursued only by leave from the Michigan Supreme Court.

Appeals may be filed by the Attorney Grievance Commission, the respondent-attorney, and the original complainant(s).

Attorneys suspended for 119 days or less may be automatically reinstated upon the filing of an affidavit of compliance with the order of discipline. In cases of suspension of 120 days or more, the attorney must file, after completion of the suspension period, a petition for reinstatement which is followed by a new investigation and establishment by the respondent-attorney of his or her fitness to re-enter the practice of law. Attorneys suspended for three (3) years or more must, in addition to reinstatement proceedings, undergo examination and recertification by the Michigan Board of Law Examiners. In Michigan, an attorney whose license has been revoked may petition for reinstatement after five (5) years.

Notices of all final orders of discipline summarizing the findings of the Hearing Panel, the Discipline Board, or the Supreme Court, and indicating the nature and effective date of discipline are issued to all courts and tribunals in the state and are published in the State Bar Journal each month.

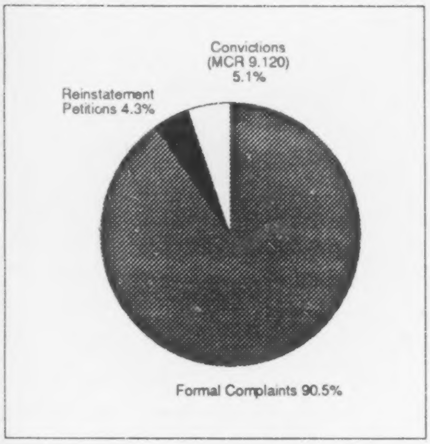


FIGURE 10.1: ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE BOARD, NEW CASES FILED, 1987

There were 229 new formal complaints filed with the Attorney Discipline Board during 1987 along with eleven reinstatement petitions. An additional thirteen cases were commenced under Michigan Court Rule 9.120 with the filing of a judgment of conviction establishing that an attorney had been convicted of a crime. Eleven new files were opened on the filing of petitions for reinstatement in accordance with MCR 9.123(B). The 253 new cases filed with the Board in 1987 represents a sixty-eight percent increase over the 151 new cases filed in 1986 and is more than double the 124 cases received for filing in 1985.

In accordance with Michigan Court Rule 9.105, all expenses of the Attorney Discipline Board are paid by the State Bar of Michigan. No public funds are appropriated to the Board.

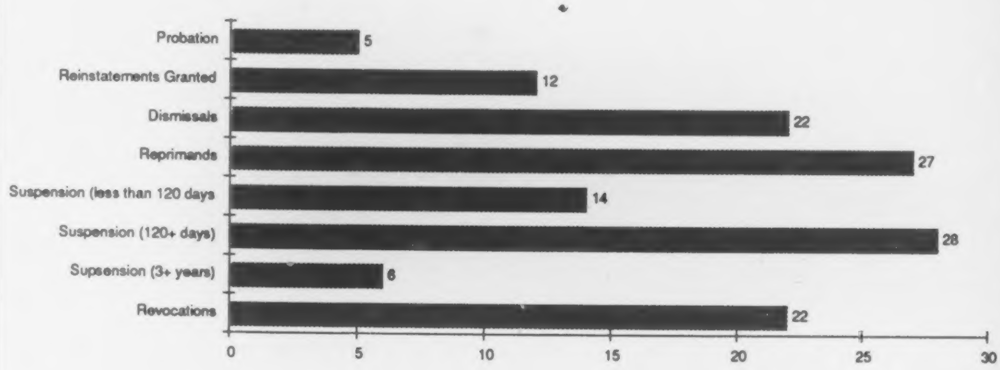


FIGURE 10.2: ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE BOARD FINAL DISPOSITIONS, 1987

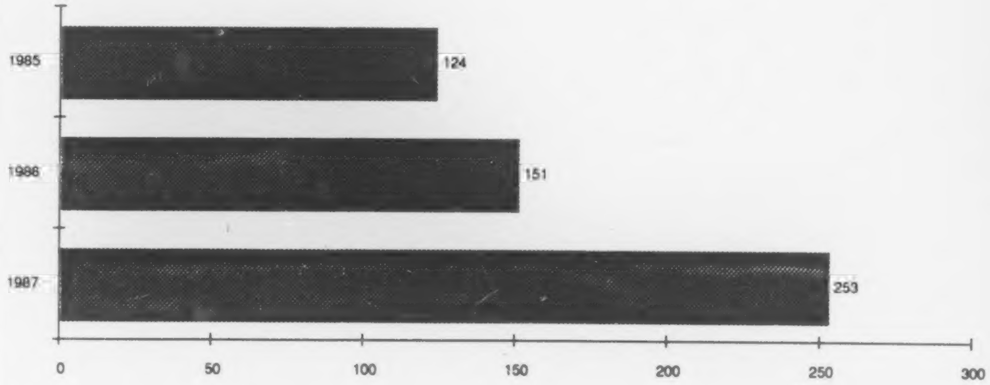


FIGURE 10.3: ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE BOARD, TRENDS IN CASES FILED

Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMISSION

The Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission was created by the Supreme Court, effective October 1, 1978. Along with the simultaneously created Attorney Discipline Board, the Commission succeeded the former State Bar Grievance Board. Pursuant to MCR 9.108(A), the Commission is the prosecutorial component of the system developed by the Supreme Court for the discharge of its constitutional responsibility to supervise and discipline Michigan attorneys. The Commission, which has statewide jurisdiction, has its offices in the Marquette Building, Suite 256, 243 West Congress, Detroit, Michigan, 48226.

Composition of the Attorney Grievance Commission

The Attorney Grievance Commission has seven members who serve without compensation and who are appointed as follows: three lawyers appointed by the Supreme Court; two public members appointed by the Supreme Court; and two lawyers appointed by the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar of Michigan.

Pursuant to MCR 9.108(D)(1), the Commission is authorized to appoint an attorney as Grievance Administrator, who serves as executive director and chief prosecutor. The current Grievance Administrator is Michael Alan Schwartz, who was appointed in 1979.

Commission Procedure

Sub-chapter 9.100 of the Michigan Court Rules governs attorney disciplinary proceedings.

Grievances filed against attorneys are denominated "requests for investigation." Any person may file a request for investigation with the Grievance Administrator and the Grievance Administrator may file his or her own request for investigation, where necessary. The filing of a request for investigation is normally the first step in the grievance process.

Following the filing of a request for investigation, the Grievance Administrator must determine whether there exists a prima facie allegation of professional misconduct, i.e., a violation of Michigan Court Rule 9.104. The Grievance Administrator may reject the request for investigation on its face or after a preliminary investigation, or he may conduct a full investigation. If the Grievance Administrator does not reject the request for investigation, he will, upon conclusion of the investigation, recommend to the Commission that (1) the matter should be closed as there is not evidence of professional misconduct sufficient to sustain the burden of proof at a disciplinary proceeding, or (2) authorization should be granted for the issuance of a formal complaint.

Investigations

Commencing October 1, 1987, the Commission's legal staff was divided into investigative and prosecution divisions. Four Associate Counsel are responsible primarily for investigations. (They have a secondary responsibility for prosecutions).

During 1987, there were 3,381 requests for investigation filed and 13 matters were reopened. Of these, 1,589 were rejected by the Grievance Administrator pursuant to MCR 9.112(C)(1)(a), amounting to 47% of new and reopened files. In Addition 1,116 were closed by the Commission pursuant to MCR 9.114(A)(2), (33%); 116 were closed administratively (3%); 227 resulted in confidential admonishments (7%); and 300 were authorized by the Commission for formal proceedings (9%). Of those requests for investigation put on for full investigation, misconduct was uncovered in 32% of the matters. The pending investigative caseload increased 6% from 766 at the beginning of the period, on January 1, 1987 to 812 as of December 31, 1987. Representing 24% of the total annual intake, the pending investigative caseload is at its highest level in the last six years. This is still favorable in comparison with the caseloads of other jurisdictions. However, the number of cases which must be investigated on average by the Commission's staff is far in excess of the national average.

Special Investigations

Assisting the full-time professional staff are some 200 special investigators. These investigators are members of the State Bar of Michigan who perform pro bono publico on behalf of the Commission, and who are reimbursed only for actual out-of-pocket expenses. Their function is to provide on-site investigation in the field; to develop an investigation which commenced at staff level; and to report back to staff counsel, who will then assess the matter and submit a recommendation to the Grievance Administrator. Approximately 10% of the formal investigations are referred to special investigators, who act to supplement investigations performed by staff counsel. The Commission's staff is responsible for all investigations, including those in which part of the work is performed by special investigators.

Litigation

Upon authorization by members of the Commission, the Grievance Administrator causes a complaint to be prepared and filed with the Attorney Discipline Board. The only exception to this is in the case of criminal convictions, where an order to show cause is issued by the Board commanding the respondent to show cause why discipline should not be imposed. This procedure for criminal convictions, and a companion provision providing for the automatic interim suspension for felony convictions, has been in effect since February 1, 1983 as a result of the Supreme Court adoption of a proposal by the Attorney Grievance Commission. The Grievance Administrator is the party-petitioner to every formal charge of misconduct, whether by formal complaint or order to show cause.

Public Hearings on charges of misconduct are held before three-lawyer Hearing Panels of the Attorney Discipline Board. In the case of a formal complaint, the Grievance Administrator is required to prove his case by a preponderance of the evidence. The respondent may retain counsel, cross-examine witnesses called by the Grievance Administrator, and present evidence in his or her own behalf, both in defense and in mitigation. In hearings on an order to show cause, the respondent has the initial burden of going forward and may present evidence in mitigation. However, the respondent is precluded from attempting to attack collaterally the criminal conviction which is the foundation of the order to show cause. The practice and procedure employed in non-jury civil cases are generally applicable to disciplinary proceedings as are the Michigan Rules of Evidence.

Upon conclusion of the hearings, if the panel finds that the Grievance Administrator has failed to prove misconduct by a preponderance of the evidence, the charge against the respondent must be dismissed. If the panel concludes that misconduct has been proven by a preponderance of the evidence, the panel must enter an order of discipline, which may consist of a reprimand, probation, suspension, or disbarment. A suspension or disbarment disqualifies the respondent from the practice of law, whereas a reprimand is in the nature of a public censure. Probation is in the nature of a supervised reprimand and is available only under limited circumstances. All discipline in Michigan is a matter of public record. (An admonishment issued by the Commission is confidential and is an administrative warning not constituting discipline.)

Any party, including the complainant who filed the request for investigation, may appeal an order of a hearing panel, as of right, to the Attorney Discipline Board, and may seek leave to appeal to the Supreme Court from an order of the Attorney Discipline Board.

Effective October 1, 1987, separate investigative and prosecution divisions were implemented. The Grievance Administrator, Deputy Grievance Administrator, and two senior Associate Counsel have primary responsibility for prosecutions, with limited investigative responsibility. The other four Associate Counsel have primary responsibility for investigations and secondary responsibility for prosecutions.

At one time, in the early 1970's, disciplinary prosecutions were performed by staff counsel in only 10% of all cases, with special counsel being responsible for the balance. At the inception of the Attorney Grievance Commission in 1978, 50% of prosecutions were performed by staff counsel and 50% by special counsel. Commencing in 1985, all disciplinary prosecutions throughout the State have been performed by the Commission's staff attorneys and the use of special counsel for prosecutions has been phased out.

In 1987 there were 22 disbarments, 48 suspensions, 1 disciplinary inactive, 5 probations, and 27 reprimands for a total of 103 orders of discipline. The disbarments represent a record for any reported year and the total disciplinary actions are a record for any 12-month reported year. (The last reported year, from October 1, 1985 through December 31, 1986, recorded 105 disciplines over a 15-month period. At an equivalent 15-month rate, the 1987 reported year would have had 129 disciplinary actions.)

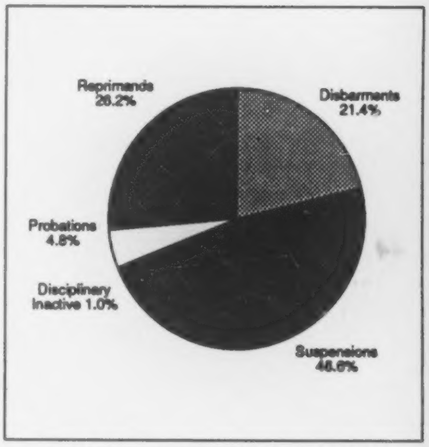


FIGURE 11.1: ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMISSION DISCIPLINE ACTIONS, 1987

By comparison, in the last year of the State Bar Grievance Board, from July 1, 1977 through June 30, 1978, there were 2,440 Requests for Investigation filed. Of that number, 753 were put on for full investigation (31% of the total, compared with 50% in 1987) and 1,687 were rejected by the former State Bar Grievance Administrator (69% of the total, compared with 47% in 1987).

Although there was an increase of 39% in requests for investigation from the last year of the State Bar Grievance Board compared to 1987 (2,440 compared to 3,381), public discipline increased by 66% (52 as opposed to 103), disbarments by 450% (from 4 to 22), and suspensions by 109% (from 23 to 48). Reprimands decreased by 16% (from 32 to 27) and disciplinary inactive remained stable (1 in the last year of the State Bar Grievance Board and 1 in 1987).

Conclusion

In recent years, the Michigan attorney disciplinary system has enjoyed a leading national reputation in production, effectiveness and efficient utilization of resources. The Michigan disciplinary system processes more cases with fewer staff and at lesser cost than virtually any other major jurisdiction. The accomplishments in 1987 strengthen Michigan's reputation as a leader in disciplinary enforcement.

Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission

Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission Members

Dean John S. Abbott, Chair
Elected by the
State Bar of Michigan
Term Expires December 31, 1989

Thomas J. Foley, Judge
Elected by the
State Bar of Michigan
Term Expires December 31, 1988

Barry M. Grant, Judge
Elected by the Probate Court Judges
Term Expires December 31, 1990

Harold Hood, Judge
Elected by the
Appellate Court Judges
Term Expires December 31, 1988

Marjorie Peebles-Meyers, M.D.
Appointed by the Governor
Term Expires December 31, 1990

F. Philip Colista, Attorney
Elected by the
State Bar of Michigan
Term Expires December 31, 1990

Hilda R. Gage, Judge
Elected by the
Circuit Court Judges
Term Expires December 31, 1988

Rabbi Irwin Groner
Appointed by the Governor
Term Expires December 31, 1989

James R. McCann, Judge
Elected by the
District Court Judges
Term Expires December 31, 1989

Joseph F. Regnier
Executive Director
Judicial Tenure Commission
910 Lafayette Building
Detroit, MI 48226

THE JUDICIAL TENURE COMMISSION

Michigan created the Judicial Tenure Commission in August 1968 when voters approved an amendment to Article VI, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution. The enabling court rule is now codified in MCR 9.200. The Judicial Tenure Commission serves to promote the integrity of the judicial process and to preserve public confidence in the courts. It strives to hold judges accountable for misconduct without jeopardizing or compromising the essential independence of the judiciary. The basis for Commission action is a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct or Rules of Professional Responsibility. The Code is published with the Michigan Court Rules. A copy may be obtained from the Commission upon request.

Activities

The Commission received 439 Requests For Investigation during 1987. A total of 631 grievance forms were mailed to aggrieved parties in response to written or telephone inquiries. In addition, many other general questions regarding the judiciary and the disciplinary process were answered.

Since its inception in 1968, the Commission has investigated 4,267 grievances against judicial officers. In 1987, 439 grievances were received and 408 reached final disposition resulting in a period-ending caseload of 102 pending grievances (see Tables 12.1 thru 12.4).

Goals

In addition to the Commission's continued efforts to preserve the honesty and integrity of the judges of this state, it continues to seek passage of legislation to liberalize the eligibility requirements for early judicial disability retirement.

By means of its vigilance, the Commission serves to repair and reinforce the fabric of justice which holds our society together.

Table 12.1: Origins of Grievances Filed with The Judicial Tenure Commission, 1987

Litigants	322
Non-litigating Citizens	41
Private Attorneys	24
Public Officials	4
Judges	2
Attorney Grievance Commission Referrals	31
Commission's Own Motion	4
Court Personnel	8
Bar Groups	1
State Court Administrator	1
Other	1
Total	439

Table 12.2: Subject Matter of Grievances Disposed by The Judicial Tenure Commission, 1987

Courtroom Demeanor	58
Intemperance	3
Conflict of Interest	5
Political Activity	1
Prejudice or Partiality	159
Criminal Conviction or Activity	57
Failure to Perform, Incompetence or Neglect	41
Review of Legal Ruling	16
Review of Merits	38
Personal Misconduct	8
Procedural or Administrative Irregularity	5
Attorney Misconduct	12
Physical or Mental Disability	3
Incompetence	1
Practicing Law	1
Total	408

Table 12.3: Determination by The Judicial Tenure Commission in Disposed Grievances, 1987

Cause for Appeal	104
Without Merit	266
Lack of Jurisdiction	4
Private Admonition to Respondent	21
Respondent Voluntarily Retired or Resigned after Formal Complaint	2
Respondent Privately Censured by Supreme Court	6
Respondent Publicly Censured by Supreme Court	5
Total	408

Table 12.4: Number of Judges Complained Against by Type, 1987

Court of Appeals	25
Circuit Court	150
Recorder's Court	35
Probate Court	48
District Court	134
Magistrate	3
Municipal Court	1
Referee	4
Retired	7
Attorney	1
Total	408

State Appellate Defender Office

Appellate Defender Commission Members

William R. Walsh, Jr., Attorney
Chair
Appointed by the
MIchigan Supreme Court
Term expires May 24, 1991

John C. Emery, Jr., Attorney
Appointed by the
State Bar of Michigan
Term Expires May 24, 1991

Beatrice P. Millender, Law Student
Appointed by the
Governor
Term Expires May 24, 1988

John E. S. Scott, Attorney
Appointed by the
State Bar of Michigan
Term Expires May 24, 1991

Ronald L. Dzierbicki, Chief Clerk
Michigan Court of Appeals
Appointed by the
Michigan Court of Appeals
Term Expires May 24, 1990

Janet E. Finlater, Associate Professor
Appointed by the
Michigan Supreme Court
Term Expires May 24, 1991

Richard E. Robinson, Retired Judge
Appointed by the
Circuit Judges Association
Term Expires May 24, 1989

Vesta Svenson, Magistrate
Appointed by the
Michigan Supreme Court
Term Expired May 24, 1987

James Neuhard
Defender
State Appellate Defender Office
Michigan Plaza Building
3rd Floor
1200 Sixth Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

STATE APPELLATE DEFENDER OFFICE

The State Appellate Defender Office (SADO) was established in 1970 pursuant to Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Order 1970-1. Its purpose was to provide competent, quality legal representation of indigent criminal defendants in post-conviction matters. The Office currently operates pursuant to 1978 PA 620 (MCL 780.711 et seq.), which superceded Administrative Order 1970-1, and is governed by the seven-member State Appellate Defender Commission, which also oversees the Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System (MAACS).

Defender James R. Neuhard heads all operations of SADO, the public defender component of the State's assigned counsel system. The private roster component of the appellate assigned counsel system (MAACS) is administered by Barbara R. Levine. The Commission adopted regulations for operation of the system, and full operation of the mixed (public defender/private roster) appellate representation scheme began on December 2, 1985.

SADO appears on local assigned counsel rosters in every third, fourth, or fifth slot, under the Commission's regulatory scheme, depending on the ratio of attorneys to the number of criminal felony appeals taken in that particular jurisdiction.

Thus, SADO may receive anywhere from one-third to one-fifth of the appellate assignments from a given jurisdiction, but no less than 25% of the State's total number of indigent felony appeals, which according to MAACS, was approximately, 3,831 in 1987. SADO accepted 851 of these assignments, counting substitutions (MAACS puts the total at 840 without substitutions). This is 110 (15%) more cases than SADO accepted in 1986 (yet only 22% of the total number of indigent criminal appellate assignments). This additional work has been absorbed without an increase in SADO's resources.

From 1979 to 1986, SADO accepted an average of about 700 cases a year. However, as predicted last year, the number of assignments to SADO would have exceeded 900 this year if the Commission had not shut off intake in August. During 1987, only two (2) of Michigan's Circuits did not appoint SADO--Circuits 12 (Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw Counties) and 52 (Huron County)--no doubt because they had very few indigent appeals.

SADO attorneys review transcripts and lower court records, visit and interview clients at Michigan's 42 prisons, camps and community corrections centers scattered across the state, investigate, research issues, file all necessary pleadings, conduct post-conviction hearings in state and federal trial courts and present oral arguments at all levels of Michigan and Federal jurisdictions.

During 1987, the Defender, Chief Deputy Defender, fifteen (15) Assistant Defenders, Legal Resources Project Director, and Training Coordinator were housed in the Detroit office. Four Assistant Defenders and the Deputy Defender were housed in the Lansing office. Ten (10) legal secretaries, the Chief Investigator and her paralegal assistant, eight (8) administrative assistants, two full-time and one part-time clerks, and one receptionist supported the legal staff. Special Assistant Defenders, post-graduate legal research assistants, and part-time law students were also periodically employed for additional support. As has been done for some 17 years now, one SADO attorney was housed at and received clerical support from the University of Michigan Law School while teaching the Appellate Practice Course there.

Students from Michigan's universities, colleges, and other schools and programs provided paralegal-type assistance to the staff as they worked for credit toward degrees. Volunteer referrals from schools, government and civic organizations, and other criminal justice programs also help out with office workload.

Activities and Workload Analysis

1987 was a record-breaking year for SADO in many ways. SADO's eighteen (18) Assistant Defenders and Lansing Deputy handled a mixture of 547 new cases (10% more than in 1986). The Special Unit, which included the Chief Deputy Defender, the Unit Manager and four (4) other Assistant Defenders handled 321 assignments--88% more than the total of 171 for 1986. The Unit is designed to provide expedited relief and to process a high volume of simple cases with similar issues. Unit attorneys handle about twice as many cases as regular assistant defenders. Unit case-handling capacity was boosted by 88% in 1987 by the addition of an Assistant Defender II and an Assistant Defender I position.

Attorneys received a combined record total of 868 new cases--an increase of 31% over 1986's total of 661. Thirty-five of those appeals were special assignments (these range from United States Supreme Court briefs to responses to prosecutor appeals), 456 were pleas, and 377 were trials.

Despite the Commission's one-month shutdown of intake, SADO received a record 851 new assignments in 1987. At the close of the year, it had 1,264 open-active cases, had closed 656 cases, and had processed some 1,920 cases.

Collateral Activity and Special Projects

In addition to its direct client services, the Office continued its involvement in collateral areas of the criminal justice system. The Legal Resources Project celebrated a decade of service to the criminal justice community. It responded to over 4,000 requests for information and assistance from attorneys (assigned and retained) and incarcerated individuals, provided more than 25,000 pages of materials and maintained a mailing list and database of over 1,800 individuals. Of those, approximately 300 were judges and 1,300 were attorneys. Nine issues and an index of the Criminal Defense Newsletter were distributed to over 1,500 subscribers. The Project summarized over 285 opinions and orders issued by the Court of Appeals, Michigan Supreme Court and federal courts. Approximately 400 individuals subscribed to the Project's opinion summaries. The Project reached individuals in 78 counties and 174 cities in Michigan. There were 34 out-of-state requests. The brief bank contained over 5,600 SADO briefs, and over 300 non-SADO briefs (MAACS attorneys and other contributors). Work began on the 1987 Supplement to the Defender Trial Book, with a projected distribution date to be in early 1988. The Supplement will number over 300 pages. There were over 250 orders pending for the reprint of the 1985 edition of the Defender Trial Book, 3rd edition, which should be available in early 1988.

Under the auspices of the State Appellate Defender Commission, Michigan Justice Training Funds obtained by SADO, MAACS, and the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan (CDAM) enabled those organizations to continue conducting general training for attorneys representing indigent criminal defendants. CDAM presented two-day seminars in Detroit and Traverse City on advanced trial practice. Over 200 lawyers registered for each event. Handout materials were distributed at these seminars and are being distributed to about 1,000 assigned counsel throughout Michigan. Copies of audio tapes of these conferences were distributed to defender offices and are available on loan through CDAM. The videotapes were also shown and loaned by CDAM.

CDAM again presented a two-day seminar on medicolegal investigation of death in conjunction with the Wayne State University Medical School. The seminar was attended by lawyers, medical personnel and law enforcement personnel, and featured a trial demonstration of cross-examination of a medical examiner.

MAACS, CDAM, and Prison Legal Services co-sponsored one-day seminars on Department of Corrections issues held in Detroit and Lansing.

SADO maintained its presence in Michigan's law schools in 1987. One SADO staff attorney taught the Criminal Appellate Practice Course at the University of Michigan Law School, and several other SADO attorneys lectured at the Cooley Law School and supervised Cooley and Wayne State University law student interns and work-study students assigned to SADO's Detroit and Lansing offices. During the summer of 1987, SADO ran a successful pilot Criminal Appellate Practice course at Wayne, modeled after the University of Michigan course. A permanent course will begin in 1988.

SADO's Special Projects Coordinator (now called Systems Manager) continued efforts to make all of its legal staff computer literate to maximize efficiency. Although she was very successful, her efforts were hampered by a switch to new equipment and an emphasis on personal microcomputer training. She also spent time developing a methodology for generating automated database reports, such as the statistical data in this report.

SADO attorneys again participated in legislative hearings on matters relating to criminal justice, working with legislators and legislative committees on criminal law and corrections matters. They also served on many boards, commissions, committees, and task forces working on criminal justice programs at both the state and national levels. The Defender was installed as president of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, and many SADO attorneys were faculty and participants in its activities.

The late William R. Walsh, Jr., Chair of the State Appellate Defender Commission for over 18 years, finally achieved most of a long-sought-after personal goal of a unified appellate defense delivery system with performance standards and an assignment system that assures lawyer independence for indigents, before his untimely death in early January, 1988.

Goals

SADO will continue its quest for funding for additional personnel, equipment, and technology needed to maintain a staffed office of skilled lawyers who provide high-quality, cost-efficient representation in its 25% of the now approximately 4,000 indigent appeals taken annually, and to effectively use its resources to support the private component of Michigan's unified indigent appellate defense delivery system and the criminal defense bar in general. It will use any additional funding received next year to add support to its cost-efficient specialized unit and to develop similar units.

SADO will redouble its efforts to obtain full state-funding for appellate defense services, and continue to publish training materials, practice and procedure books and manuals, distribute the Criminal Defense Newsletter and opinion summaries, and conduct and participate in various training programs.

Where possible, SADO will expand its teaching role in Michigan's law schools in fulfillment of its twofold commitment to provide high-quality indigent representation, by improving the quality of Michigan law school graduates, and to provide an excellent source for recruiting its own staff attorneys and legal assistance.

As always, SADO will seek judicial decisions, legislation, and executive action that make the whole criminal justice process open, fair, expeditious, and cost-efficient.

Table 13.1: Caseload Statistics for SADO, 1987

Total New Assignments	851
Cases Opened	1,264
Cases Closed	656
Total Cases Processed	1,920

Table 13.2: Last Action on SADO Cases Open at the End of 1987

I. Trial Courts	
Cases assigned to SADO, no claim filed - transcript not received	114
Cases assigned to SADO, no claim filed - transcript received	91
Motion Resentence	44
Motion New Trial/Withdraw Plea	39
Leave case - transcript received	16
Motion Bond/Other	4
No action calendar year	3
Remanded, hearing/decision pending	1
Total	312
II. Court of Appeals	
Claim filed - transcript received	298
SADO and Prosecutor briefs filed	167
Oral argument held	131
Claim filed - no transcript	69
SADO brief filed	40
Motion Remand pending/granted	36
Motion Resentencing/Peremptory Reversal/Other	24
Supplemental brief	17
SADO/Prosecutor Motion Rehearing	14
Motion/Stipulation to Dismiss pending	8
Application Leave/Delayed Appeal	8
Motion Bond	3
Held in abeyance	2
No action calendar year	1
Total	818
III. Supreme Court	
Application for Leave to Appeal with brief	81
Application for Leave to Appeal - held in abeyance	21
Leave granted, brief filed	7
Leave granted - oral argument held	5
Motion Rehearing	3
Leave granted	2
Motion Dismiss	2
Remanded for hearing	1
Total	122
IV. United States Courts - District/Appeals/Supreme	
SADO/Prosecutor briefs	7
Petition Writ of Habeas Corpus	3
Oral argument held	1
Order for further pleadings	1
Total	12
Total Open Cases	1,264

Table 13.3: Disposition of SADO Cases Closed in 1987

I. Trial Court	
Motion Resentence/Credit granted/denied	35
Substitute counsel appointed/retained	24
Dismissed by motion/stipulation	20
Motion Vacate Plea/Sentence/Conviction granted/denied	10
Motion New trial granted/denied	10
Other disposition	2
Total	101
II. Court of Appeals	
Regular disposition	263
Appeal dismissed by stipulation/motion	104
Consolidated with other SADO cases	8
Application Leave/Delayed Appeal denied	5
Appeal dismissed - client died	3
Attorney retained	3
Total	386
III. Supreme Court	
Leave denied - SADO	146
Leave denied - Prosecutor	5
Reversed and remanded	4
Affirmed	4
Leave granted - SADO (new cases started)	1
Appeal dismissed by motion/stipulation	1
Total	161
IV. United States Courts - District/Appeals/Supreme	
Petition for Writ of Certiorari	4
Reversed	2
Affirmed	1
Motion denied	1
Total	8
Total Closed Cases	656

Table 13.4: Filings by SADO in 1987

Courts	
Trial Court	412
Court of Appeals	1,804
Supreme Court	214
United States Courts	31
Total	2,461
1987 Assignments	
Pleas	471
Trials	349
Specials	31
Total	851

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